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ABSTRACT

This report presents in-depth analysis, pictures, and personal stories illustrating the problems that deteriorated and overcrowded schools pose for students and teachers every day. The Grassroots Factbook provides updated, at-a-glance fact sheets and organizing kits that focus on the major decisions facing communities as the federal budget year progresses. The fact sheets reveal the status of public schools in each state summarizing the extend of school deterioration, the status of school construction, the impact on students and teachers, the communities ability to fund modernization of their schools, and the extent of federal support and legislation. The reports reveal that U.S. public schools have dangerously deteriorated to the point that it will take 50 years to modernize the existing public schools at current spending. Schools are overcrowded, and enrollments are expected to increase over the next 10 years. Communities and states no longer have the resources to address their overcrowded and deteriorated schools and need greater federal participation to rebuild and strengthen the educational infrastructure. Resource information is provided. (GR)

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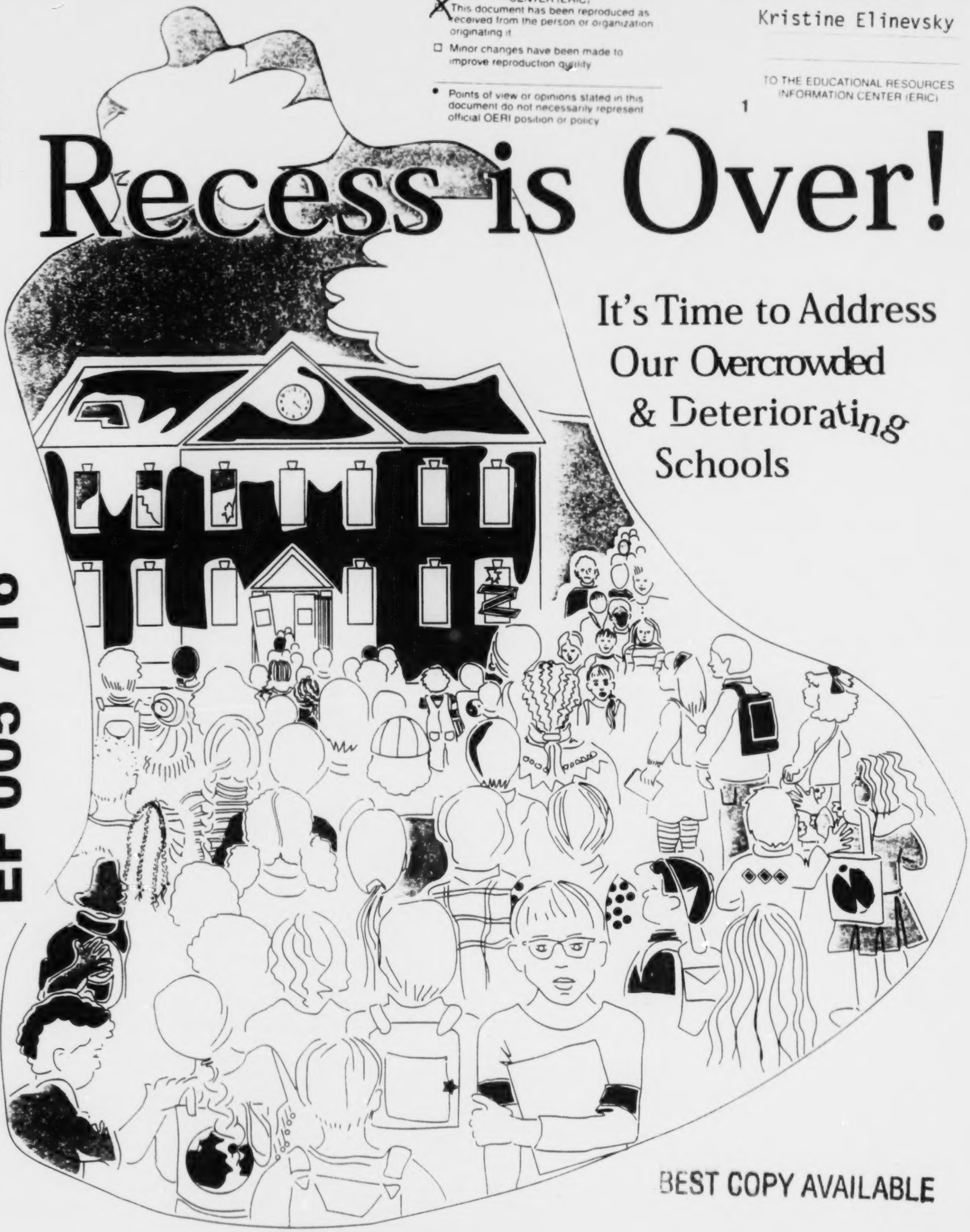
# Recess is Over!

## It's Time to Address Our Overcrowded & Deteriorating Schools



A Publication of the National Priorities Project in Collaboration with National People's Action

## National Priorities Project

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The **National Priorities Project** (NPP) offers citizen and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice. NPP is a community education, research and training organization that for more than 17 years has dedicated itself to making our nation's budget priorities something that ordinary citizens can help shape and understand. In addition to a national perspective, NPP analyzes the impact of federal spending on the state and local level, providing citizen groups, elected officials, the media and policy analysts with the information they need to respond to the problems faced in their own communities. The Project maintains an extensive database of state and local information and works to make that data immediately accessible. NPP hosts one of the largest free information sites on the World Wide Web with more than 1900 pages of data and reports available to the general public. For an example of the information currently available, visit our web site at **www.natprior.org**.

The National Priorities Project is also proud to announce the creation of its *Congressional District (CD) Profiles Database.* Expected to be the only one of its kind, the database will be fully interactive and designed to provide the user with a CD Profile that includes basic demographic data, in-depth information on unmet social needs, the amount of household income that goes from your community to various programs, how much comes back to the CD and much more. The *CD Profiles Database* is projected to be operational later this year. NPP expects to provide its first publication using Congressional District breakdowns in the Fall of 2000.

## National People's Action

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**National People's Action** is a 20-year old, Chicago-based coalition of some 302 grassroots neighborhood groups from 38 states. The coalition and its national chairperson, Gale Cincotta, are best known for spearheading the movement to pass the Community Reinvestment Act in the 1970's, taking on insurance redlining and developing innovative crime and violence prevention strategies in the 1980s. Most recently NPA has been working to reform the Federal Housing Administration's guaranteed loan program.

Today the organizations that participate in NPA work on a variety of different issues, including the need for school construction and more after-school activities, increasing community reinvestment, making neighborhoods safer, cleaning up toxics, and job development and retention. What unites these groups is a shared commitment to keeping our nation's neighborhoods strong and a philosophy that neighborhood residents are the experts on neighborhood needs.

# Table of Contents

# Recess is Over!

## *It's Time to Address Our Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools*

This publication offers an in-depth analysis, pictures and personal stories illustrating the problems that deteriorating and overcrowded schools pose for students and teachers on a daily basis. It calls for a stronger federal role in financing our education infrastructure. In addition to this national overview, versions are available for all of the 50 states through NPP's *Grassroots Factbook* series and on our website at *www.natprior.org.* Please contact NPP for more information.

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Note: All numbers are in 2000 dollars unless otherwise noted.

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# Introduction

This report joins the unique local impact research of the National Priorities Project (NPP) with the grassroots leadership of National People's Action(NPA) organizations across the country. It urges the nation - and the federal government - to address what is becoming a national tragedy – the condition of our nation's public schools.

Our public education system has been the foundation of our great democracy, our unique way of developing the intellectual and social character of every child in preparation for effective participation in that system. This process – and those values – are housed in our nation's 100,000 public school buildings.

Today, as this report documents, too many of those buildings are falling apart and overcrowded. In urban, suburban and rural communities across the country, our public school buildings are literally endangering the lives and learning of our children and discouraging our teachers. Instead of imparting in our students a sense of democracy, we are creating fear and cynicism. Through analysis and first-hand stories, we show the inability of local communities to address this monumental problem on their own.

***Recess is over.***
***It's time for the federal government to do its fair share to save our public schools.***

Our call is urgent. We're ringing the bell, sounding the alarm. **Recess is over.** It's time for the federal government to do its fair share to save our public schools.

Sincerely,

Greg L. Speeter

Greg L. Speeter
Executive Director
National Priorities Project

Gale Cincotta

Gale Cincotta
National Chairperson
National People's Action
Executive Director
National Training and Information Center

**P.S.** We have great information about your school district! We want to show how the education policies we discuss in this report are important to every person across the nation. Therefore, at the NPP web site, **www.natprior.org**, you will find a page of relevant basic information on each of the 15,000 school districts in the country. Also remember to look for the two-page, state-by-state versions of this report available for download.

# Executive Summary

America's public schools - urban, suburban and rural - have dangerously deteriorated. Although state and local governments have recently doubled their commitment to rebuild this crumbling infrastructure, even at this rate it will take 50 years just to modernize the existing public schools.

In addition, school districts have not been able to keep pace with record increases in school-age population. Over 50% of New York City and Chicago classrooms are overcrowded. Some suburbs have seen 17-22% increases in population *in just 2 years.* These trends will only be exacerbated by projected record population increases in the next 10 years, with no decline in population in sight.

**Studies show that school conditions can strongly affect student success or failure as well as the teaching/learning process.**

Communities and states no longer have the resources to address overcrowded, deteriorated schools. The federal government, which has significantly cut back its overall commitment to states and communities and to education in the past 20 years, must do its fair share to rebuild and strengthen education infrastructure.

Bi-partisan legislation being offered in Congress this year could make a dramatic difference, for very little cost, and keep the control of school financing in the hands of local officials. Bills to provide interest-free bonds could halve the cost of school buildings, and finance the building or rehabilitation of 6,000 schools.

**Polls show that the public would overwhelmingly support legislation to improve deteriorated, overcrowded schools.**

*Right: Peeling paint, cracked concrete and exposed, rusting metal and pipes are only some of the problems at this Baton Rouge school.*

### Baton Rouge, LA
### It's All Wet

*"One day very early in the school year I walked into the lunchroom and my jaw dropped," said Tara Parrish, an 11th grade teacher at Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge. "I've never seen anything like it. In the space between the roof and the ceiling was a sagging part where water would collect. So the day after it rained – and a good rain in Louisiana is a downpour – water would then 'rain' for the next four days on the lunchroom."*

*The school had moved tables and rearranged wires to accommodate the problem. There were no cautionary signs up. At least one classroom suffered so badly from leaks that students had nowhere to put their backpacks during class because of water on the floors.*

*"Then," Parrish continued, "the school board started talking about uniforms. Kids complained that the school board was worried about uniforms and safety but not about the roof. That's when they decided to wear raincoats to the school board meeting in December."*

Louisiana Communities United (LCU) is based in Gonzalez. LCU is an organizing leader in the areas of environmental justice and education.

# The Need for Repairs

## America's Schools are Old, and in Desperate Need of Repair

The conditions of our public schools have become a national disgrace.

Five years ago the federal government surveyed 10,000 schools and estimated that 33% of our schools, serving 14 million children, needed either extensive repair or total replacement. These schools are in virtually every community in the country.

**Table I**

**The Percent of Schools Needing Repair or Replacement, According to the GAO Report**

60% of all schools needed extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.[1]

58% of schools had at least one poor environmental condition, such as inadequate heating or poor air quality.[2]

| Community Type | % of Schools with at Least One Inadequate Building | % of Schools with at Least One Inadequate Feature |
|---|---|---|
| Central City | 37.6% | 66.6% |
| Urban Fringe/Large Town | 28.6% | 56.8% |
| Rural/Small Town | 30.3% | 51.7% |

Source: Table I, GAO - School Facilities: America's Schools Report Differing Conditions - 6/96, Table II.4, page 37.

The report estimated that it would cost $112 billion to bring all schools to a good overall condition and to comply with federal mandates.[3]

Other national organizations with expertise in building construction are extremely critical of school conditions. The American Institute of Architects reports our nation's schools are "in shambles".[4] The American Schools and Universities survey states that a majority of our schools are in crisis.[5] The American Society of Civil Engineers considers our schools in worse condition than any other infrastructure, including our prisons. It gives our schools a grade of F.[6]

### Local Estimates of the Cost to Repair Schools are Startling, for Example:

New York City, NY needs $6.4 billion,[7]

Newark, NJ $1.7 billion,[8] and

Philadelphia, PA $765 million.[9]

## Our Schools are Getting Old . . .

The average age of a public school building is 42 years. The construction industry notes that when a school is 20-30 years old, frequent replacement of equipment is needed. Between 30 and 40 years of age, original equipment such as roofs and electrical equipment must be replaced. After 40 years, a school building begins rapid deterioration; after 60 years, most schools are abandoned. 73% of our nations' schools are 30 years or older. Close to a third of our schools are more than 25 years old and have had no renovation in 20 years.[10]

## ... And are Not Given Adequate Funding for Maintenance

Despite the aging of our schools, maintenance funding has been cut back from 13% to 9.1% in a decade, according to the American Schools and Universities.[11] Other research shows an exponential increase in this deferred maintenance as buildings experience secondary and tertiary effects of initial deferred maintenance: for instance, the carpet needs to be replaced and/or walls need to be re-plastered because the roof leaks.[12]

## ... Busy with More Immediate Needs

Michael Casserly, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, has worked for years with leaders of the nation's largest school districts. He notes that urban schools are already underfunded, and so are more likely to try to meet immediate needs such as classrooms, schools and books rather than address repairs.[13] Barbara Lawrence, with the Rural School and Community Trust finds rural schools in the same bind, noting that maintenance is put off since it is one of the only things principals have control over from year to year.[14]

## Progress at a Snail's Pace

While repair and construction work has increased in the past several years, it is nowhere near enough. John B. Lyons of the U.S. Department of Education, estimates that $4.4 billion was spent on school alterations in 1999. Assuming half went to repair prior deficiencies, he estimates it would take 50 years to return schools to good condition.[15]

*Right: Temporary spaces where our children are trying to learn, like this "classroom in the hallway" in the Bronx, are a growing problem.*

Photo Courtesy of Jordan Moss/Norwood News

### The Bronx, NY
### Mobile Homerooms

*In Public School 33, 1,064 students go to a school that was designed to hold only 694, leaving it at over 153% of capacity. Under the elevated train that runs above busy Jerome Avenue in front of the school, a row of five mobile classrooms park every day. These buses are used to hold classes that do not fit into the main school building. Last year, a kindergarten room held 51 students, and two others held 52 students each. The rooms were so crowded that there was no room for desks and chairs, so the students sat on the floor.*

The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition has been organizing for 25 years. Their region is home to the most overcrowded schools in the nation.

### Brooklyn, NY
### Community School Needs Home

*When it became clear the District couldn't solve problems related to overcrowding, parents in Brooklyn came together with their local community development corporation to create the Cypress Hills Community School (P.S. 89). The 90 Kindergarten through 5th Graders are temporarily housed within an overcrowded intermediate school. P.S. 89 is now recognized as part of the District. Staff, parents and the CDC have identified a permanent site to make this longstanding neighborhood dream a reality. All that remains is to secure funding for the facility's creation.*

The Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation is a community-based organization working on housing and other issues.

# Overcrowding on the Rise

## Our Schools are Dangerously Overcrowded

Deterioration is only part of today's school crisis, overcrowding is another. While no national data is yet available, information from individual school districts is indeed disturbing:

- In New York City, 59% of students attend overcrowded schools;[1]
- In Chicago, 57% of high school students, and 40% of elementary school students, attend overcrowded schools;[2]
- In Los Angeles, 15,000 students are bussed each day because there is no room at their home schools.[3]
- Wisconsin, which has a large rural population, estimates that 26.9% of its schools are overcrowded.[4]

## Population has Skyrocketed

Public schools have not been able to keep pace with record enrollments in recent years - a 16.5%, 6.7 million increase in student population between 1989 and 1999. The West had the most growth, on the average a 25.9% increase. Nevada's schools have seen a 74.1% increase over 10 years; Arizona 46.7% and California 26.2%.[5]

Other regions have also seen dramatic increases. In the South, Florida has seen a 33% increase, Georgia, 26.5%. In the Northeast, Connecticut student population has increased 18.5%. In the Midwest, Illinois population is up by 19.8%.[6]

### The Pressure of Population Increases on Local School Districts is Enormous

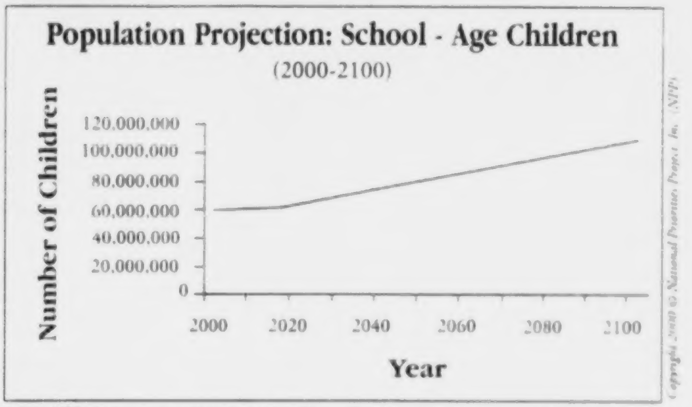
- **Broward County, Florida, one of the** districts **with the largest** increase **in enrollment in the country, averaged more than** 8,700 **new students a year between 1987 and** 1997. **With 2,000 portable** classrooms, **it has become known as the "portable classroom capital" of the nation.** A recent state mandate to retire **portable classrooms will only exacerbate the overcrowding.**

- **Jefferson County Colorado represents the kind of growth many suburban areas face. It has had to build 13 new schools between 1990 and 1998, and has recently added 500 portable classrooms.[7]**

In fact, many suburban communities have experienced incredible growth *in just 2 years.* For example, in Texas, Plano has seen a 22.5% increase in growth, Lewisville a 17.8% increase and, in Capistrano, CA a 13.8% increase between the fall of 1996 and the fall of 1998.[8]

Despite this surge in population since 1989, school construction spending averaged between $9 and $11 billion from 1989 until 1996, although by 1998 it increased to $17 billion.[9] Hard-hit by the economic recession at the beginning of the decade, many schools delayed construction and maintenance despite the need. In many cases, school construction faced stiff opposition from voters. In 1991, for example, half of all school bond proposals were defeated. In 1997 however, 2/3 of school bonds were passed.[10]

### Chart I



Source: NPP calculations using Department of the Census, Population Division, Projections Program Projections Data 2000-2100, January 1999

### Continued Population Growth Will Exacerbate the Problem

According to U.S. Census projections, school-age population will continue to grow year-by-year throughout the century, almost doubling by the year 2100. This "baby-boom echo" is unlike the post-World War baby boom which was followed by a sharp decline of births in the early 1970s.[11] (See Chart I.)

### School Repair + New Schools + Computers = $308 billion

The National Education Association recently surveyed the Departments of Education in all 50 states, asking them to assess their state's need to repair and modernize existing schools, to meet rising enrollments, and to provide modern telecommunications technology for all schools. The cumulative bill for renovating existing and building new schools is $254 billion. The cost to equip all schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers: $54 billion, for a sum total of $308 billion.[12]

*Above: Students exit a plywood bungalow, turned classroom, in Los Angeles.*

*Below: Many of the 15,000 Los Angeles children riding buses to school in neighboring towns (because of overcrowding) suffer lower academic test scores as a result.*

### Los Angeles, CA
### Bidding for a Bungalow

*The White House Place Primary Center in Los Angeles houses 200 children in 10 plywood bungalows. These bungalows have only one exit, placing the children at great risk in case of fire or earthquake. There is no auditorium or gym, no computers and a small concrete playground for children to play on at recess. Yet, parents in the surrounding neighborhood advocate for their children to attend this school. The alternative is a 2-hour bus ride due to overcrowded neighborhood schools.*

*The Primary Center is illustrative of the broader crisis facing the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). 15,000 children ride buses each day because there is no room at their home school. According to LAUSD, these children score significantly lower on academic tests than children staying in neighborhood schools. The District must build more than 100 new schools in the next 10 years to handle the projected influx of 120,000 new students.*

The Westside Parent Organizing Project works to organize parents to push for school construction and education reform in the Venice and Mar Vista neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

# The Impact on Learning

## Overcrowded, Deteriorating Schools Handicap Students and Teachers

Common sense indicates that deteriorated, overcrowded conditions interfere with the teaching and learning environment. But researchers have begun to measure whether or not, or how much, building conditions affect student performance. Their recent studies indicate that the conditions of schools make a significant difference.

## Deteriorated Schools Impact Learning

Work by Glenn Earthman of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and other researchers are showing a strong correlation between a building's condition and its impact on learning. Among the findings:

- In Washington, DC students in school buildings in poor condition scored 5.45 points lower than those in fair condition, and 10.9% lower than those in excellent condition.[1]
- In two different studies using the same methodology, one in rural Virginia, another of all 199 North Dakota high schools, students in schools in poor condition scored 5 percentage points below those in above average condition in standardized tests, including subtests in reading, math, written expression, science, etc.[2]

In a more recent test using the same methodology, students in large, urban schools in Virginia scored far worse than students in above-standard schools. Students had grade points:

**17 points lower in math;**

**15 points lower in reading comprehension;**

**11% lower in social science;**

**9% lower in science and in writing.**[3]

Teachers note that differences in test scores as large as the latest Virginia study could mean the difference between an A and a C, or a C and an F in a course, and could dramatically weaken a high school transcript. As Earthman states, differences in scores as large as these are enough to account for student success or failure.[1]

## So Does Overcrowding

Little research exists on the impact of school overcrowding on achievement. However, a study entitled *Bursting at the Seams* by the New York City Citizens Commission on Planning for Enrollment Growth found that, especially in schools with a high proportion of students living in poverty, overcrowding can have a dire impact on learning. For instance:

- Students in overcrowded schools scored significantly lower on both math and reading exams than those in underutilized schools;
- Students interviewed felt that overcrowding makes it difficult for them to concentrate on lessons;
- Teachers stated that overcrowding limited the amount of time teachers could spend on innovative teaching methods, limited them to struggle simply to maintain order, and increased the likelihood of burnout.
- In addition, the study found that overcrowding has "a direct and often severe impact on the logistics of the school day, forcing changes in schedules and making disruptions and noise part of normal operating procedure".[5]

Bernard Manchego, who works with parents, teachers and students as the parent coordinator for Title I programs in a rapidly-growing Florida school district, notes that one way overcrowding affects learning is that there is a shortage of textbooks. "Students have to share textbooks and materials with each other, so at least half the time students can't review assignments or do homework. They don't do as well as they would if they had these resources".[6]

## What Message are We Sending our Children?

Gabe Gonzalez, who has been fighting to improve schools in Illinois with the Northwest Neighborhood Federation, has found from his community work that not only do children not learn as well in bad conditions, they have less confidence that the education system will work for them. He believes that these conditions confine large segments of society to have lower expectations for everything they do.[7]

PABLO CASALS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Above: A structural flaw causes heavy piles of snow to fall over the entrance of this Chicago school. With no money to fix the problem, students are only "protected" by this scaffolding.*

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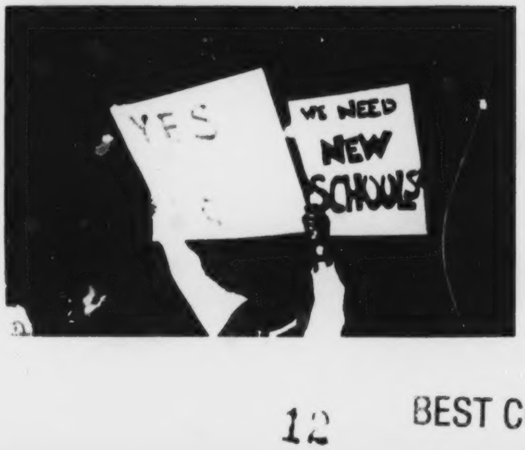
*Below: Parents and teachers say it all at local school board meetings.*



### Chicago, IL

*Overcrowded and deteriorated schools are a problem throughout Chicago:*

### Counseling in a Closet

*Munoz Marin Primary Center, built for only 120 children, currently holds almost 400, with no library, gym or playground. Olga Arriaga, a Local School Council (LSC) member, adds, "When the counselor has meetings with parents, she uses a janitor's closet."*

### Boiler Room Backdrop

*At Stowe Elementary School, which has over 1,500 students, the 12-year old modular classroom is in terrible shape. It includes a leaking roof that causes flooded classrooms and forces children to meet in any space they can find in the main building, including outside the boiler room in the basement.*

---

Blocks Together is a non-profit grassroots community organization that works to improve the N. Garfield and W. Humboldt Park communities.

### No Space at Home

*Shields Elementary School is at 139% of its capacity - 1,747 students. LSC member Gloria Braveo explains, "Overcrowding is so bad that we have to bus hundreds of kids to schools in other neighborhoods. The new school promised for Brighton Park is overcrowded before it's even built."*

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is a 3-year old community group recently honored as Best Emerging Community Group in Chicago by a consortium of foundations.

# The Need for a Stronger Federal Role

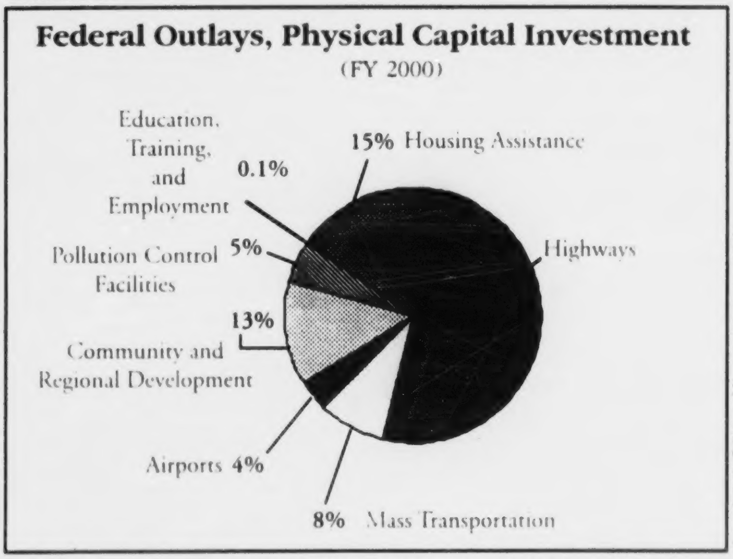
## States and Communities Cannot Afford to Build Schools on Their Own

Unlike the help it provides other infrastructure, the Federal government provides virtually no help to local communities when it comes to schools, only 1/10 of 1%. (See Chart II.) In recent years, local communities and most states are valiantly trying to address the situation, but lack adequate resources. In 1998, state and local governments contributed $17 billion in K-12 construction costs alone. The federal government contributed $400 million for financing costs. (See Chart III.)[1]

## Communities Need Federal Assistance

While virtually all communities are financially strapped, some are less able to finance school construction than others. Given their lower property tax revenues, poorer communities, usually large cities, or rural communities, have less money to build schools than do wealthier ones, and must address more socio-economic problems.

**Chart II**



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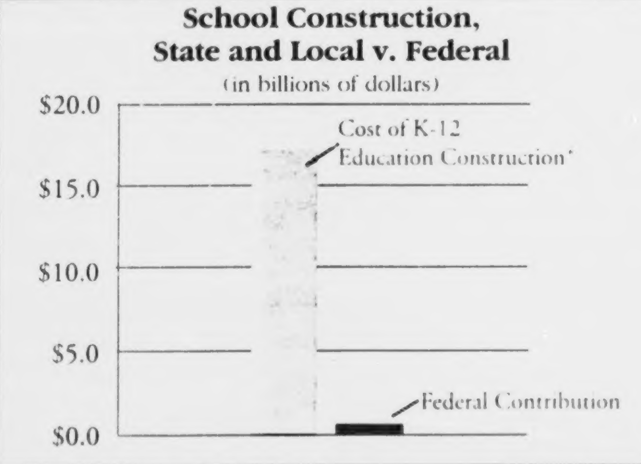
Source: Historical Tables of the Budget for FY 2000. Table 9.6 Composition of Outlays for Grants for Major Public Capital Investment 1941 - 2000.

### Philadelphia is a Case in Point

With per capita income much lower than that of its suburbs, it spent $6,812 per pupil in 1996, compared to $10,937 for Jenkintown, $12,207 for Lower Merion and $12,255 for Radnor. In addition, Philadelphia must address other social and economic challenges. For instance, 42% of its children live in poverty compared to a 7.9% average child poverty rate for the surrounding 4 counties.[2] In 1996, the city did a study that found that it would take $765 million just to bring existing schools up to standard.[3] Yet it has the highest tax rate in Pennsylvania, and cannot raise its taxes.[4]

**Chart III**



*The cost of K-12 education construction completed in 1998 represents only construction costs for all new construction, additions and modernizations completed in 1998. This cost severely underestimates the actual costs of building new schools or completing major renovations on existing facilities because it does not include the costs associated with financing school bond issues or costs of purchasing land,etc. The true cost is likely to be nearly twice this amount. Total federal contribution to school modernization and construction projects represents only the contribution of the QZAB program which covers the cost of interest on school bonds.*

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* Does not include financing, purchase of land, etc.

Source: Construction Costs: AS&U 25th Annual Official Education Construction Report, May 1999. Federal Contribution: Department of Education, QZAB Comparison of Allocations for 1998 - 2000, www.ed.gov/inits/construction/qzab3yr.html

## From Urban . . .

Michael Casserly of the Council of the Great City Schools finds the construction need in big city school districts has just become too great to be able to address at the local level alone. He notes that if the local school systems had to pay the total cost of meeting school needs, the tax rates would be so high that everyone would leave the cities.

In fact, according to Casserly, many cities have passed bonds and levies, but at best they are picking up only 30% to 40% of the need.[5] Our research finds that:

- While the Chicago public schools have issued $1.9 billion in school bonds since 1996 and have been hailed as a national model in addressing school problems, last year it had to eliminate $400 million for its capital plan and postpone another $400 million until more funds are found.[6]

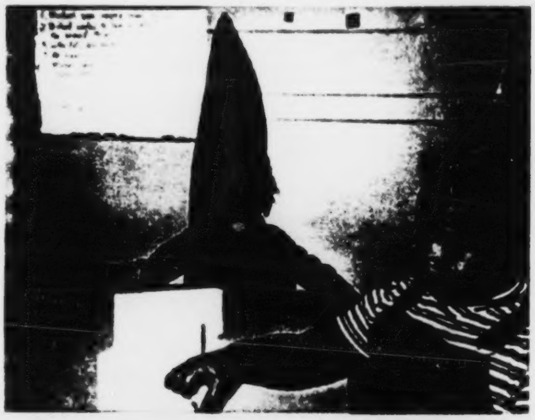
- The New York school system, which has been implementing a major $10 billion capital improvement program since 1990, finds that due to increasing enrollment, it will be able to pay for only half of the needed repairs.[7]

Casserly notes that in addition, in many cities, such as New York, Washington, and Baltimore, local school systems cannot try to raise the money for their schools on their own. They must rely on city government to do so, and so they find themselves competing with other priorities, including fire, police, other infrastructure and increasingly sports stadiums, for bonds.[8]

### Milwaukee, WI
### Space Wanted

*Nationally recognized as a leading two-way bilingual school, La Escuela Fratney operates in a building that is almost a century old. Built in 1903, the school lacks a music room, art room, computer lab, cafeteria and full kitchen. The school is not accessible to physically challenged individuals. The cafeteria, which is the size of a regular classroom, must serve over 300 students every day. The kitchen, which is built into an old coat room, can only warm food, so that food must be trucked in from a nearby middle school.*

*Part of the office and the computer lab are in the second floor hallway. One first grade classroom is in the basement. When children play in the third floor gymnasium the second floor library light fixtures shake, and the noise obliterates any possibility for instruction. The sound reverberates throughout the school. In November of 1998, over 200 people turned out at a school board hearing to testify in support of a new building plan. Despite the overwhelming support and continued advocacy, there are still no funds available.*



*Above: Young Milwaukee students are literally learning in a closet.*

*Below: Every day 380 students use this regular size classroom as a cafeteria, 130 at a time.*

WISDOM is a church-based regional coalition of Wisconsin community organizations that has led successful campaigns in the cities of Racine and Milwaukee.

## . . . To Rural, the Challenges are the Same

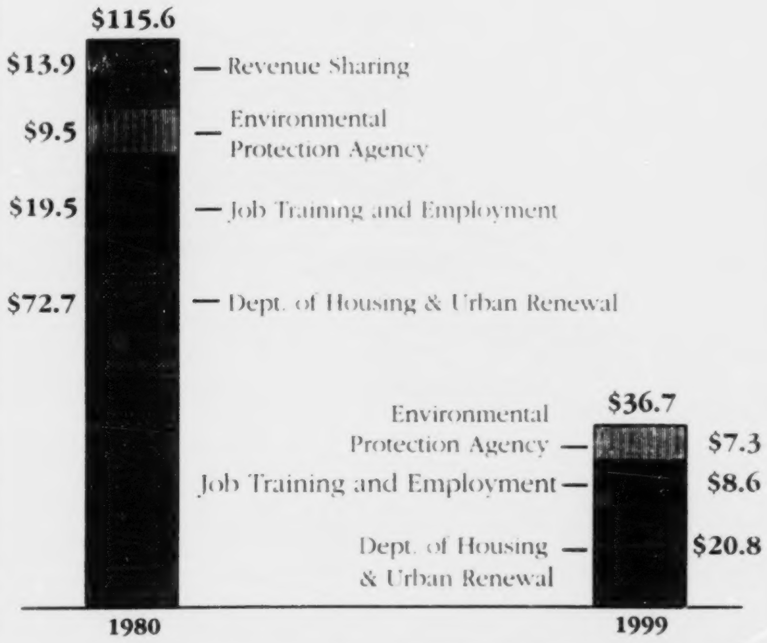
Rural communities find themselves in a similar precarious position trying to raise money. A state-by-state survey of rural school districts found that with lower student enrollments, inadequacy of the tax base and limits that are generally placed on debt, rural districts often cannot generate the revenues required to build school facilities. It found that the majority of responding districts had already exercised over half of their allowable limits for capital outlay, and 27% of the districts had reached the maximum limit.[9]

Ed McLiney, who has run a bond underwriting business since 1966, believes the public supports the school districts as best it can. He noted that Missouri changed its state constitution to allow a school district to increase its debt service from 10% of evaluation to 15% but that still there are central cities and rural communities where people just can't raise the money to obtain bonds.[10]

**Chart IV**

**Decline in Federal Commitment to States and Cities**

(1980 v. 1999, in billions of dollars)



*In several ways, federal policies have contributed to the inability of states and communities to afford school construction.*

*First, the federal government has cut back dramatically in other commitments to states and cities over the past 20 years, forcing state and local government to ask taxpayers for money to address other needs. Since 1980, it has eliminated Revenue Sharing, which, after adjusting for inflation, means it has cut housing units by 71%, cut job training by 56%, and cut environmental protection by 23%. As Chart IV shows, the federal government spends $79 billion less in these areas today than it did in 1980.*[11]

*Second, the federal government has cut its share of education spending over the past 20 years. In 1980, the federal government contributed 9.8% of all elementary and secondary education dollars. Today it contributes 6.6%.*[12]

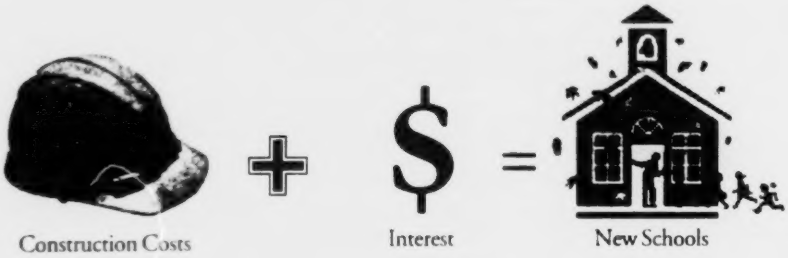
Source: Historical Tables of the Budget, FY 2000. Table 5.1 BA by Function. Table 5.2 BA by Agency

## Proposals for Federal Support

Due to the severe crisis documented by the GAO report and to increased citizen pressure, in the past few years, members of Congress and the Administration have sought ways to involve the federal government in responding to the school construction crisis.

## Interest-Free/Tax-Credit Bonds

One approach that would significantly address the crisis would have the federal government provide interest-free/tax-credit bonds to states and/or school districts. School districts or municipalities generally pay for schools by financing municipal bonds. The interest cost on a school is enormous, amounting to as much as the cost of the school itself. Thus by providing interest-free bonds, the federal government can cut the cost of the school by as much as 50%.[1]



## Barnstead, NH "Open" to the Public

*The Town of Barnstead does not have a high school. Instead, the town runs five buses to high schools in neighboring towns, which requires the students to be on a bus up to one hour each way. However, due to overcrowding, the high schools have stopped taking students unless they excel in some regard. Tim Clark, Chairman of the Barnstead School Committee, put it this way:*

*"If you're an 8th grade student in Barnstead, you're 13 years old, you have to apply to be accepted to public high school. And you can be denied for any reason. They can simply say they don't have enough room. So children are being awarded placements on the basis of merit. This is public education. This isn't like taking the PSATs and going to college. This is just getting a public education. And you can be denied."*

*The voters of Barnstead have thus far rejected local efforts to raise the funds for the town to build its own high school.*

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Twelve-years ago, parents, teachers and other citizens of Barnstead began efforts to build a town high school.

*Right: The empty field where a high school for the town of Barnstead needed to be built 12-years ago.*

Many school districts have poor bond ratings, meaning that they have had a poor performance in paying back previous bonds. Potential purchasers of bonds look at these ratings when deciding whether or not to purchase a bond, or how much interest to charge. Poor bond ratings could mean that raising bonds in the future will be more difficult and/or more expensive. This legislation would pay the interest on a bond, increasing the appeal to the purchaser and lowering the cost to the school district.[2]

In 1997 Congress authorized $400 million in interest-free bonds each year for 1998 and 1999. In 1999 it reauthorized this program for two more years. These bonds, called Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) currently can only be used for school modernization, not for the building of new schools. Half the nation's state education agencies have authorized these bonds or are considering them.[3]

## This Year's Budget Proposals

The Clinton Administration's FY 2001 budget proposes spending another $2.4 billion over 5 years to subsidize $24.8 billion in bonds, and would allow the money to be used for construction of new schools as well as for modernization. The Administration calculates this legislation would rebuild/construct 6,000 schools over that period.[4] This would be 22% of the deferred maintenance as identified by the GAO, or 8% of the deferred maintenance and need for new schools as identified by the NEA.[5] Democrats and Republicans are attempting a bi-partisan effort to pass a school construction package.[6]

## Grants and Loans for Urgent Repairs

In addition, the FY 2001 Clinton budget proposal includes $1.3 billion a year for the next 5 years in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high-poverty, high-need districts.[7]

Critics might claim that the legislation will significantly expand federal bureaucracy and control of the construction and renovation of public schools and that the legislation is too expensive. In fact, neither is the case. First, all decisions about which schools are to be built or repaired are left up to states and localities. Second, proposed tax credits create no additional bureaucracy. Third, existing government departments would implement the program.[8]

### Nor is the program expensive:

The $1.8 billion **annual cost of both the interest-free bonds** and the grants and loans for emergency repairs **would cost the median tax-paying household** $7.58 a year.[9] To provide some perspective, **the combined cost of the bonds, grants and** loans this year is comparable to:

- $6.50 per **capita;**
- 1/26 what **the federal government spent last year on** other physical infrastructure;
- the cost of **19 of the 3,700 new fighter jets, or** 1/165 of the Pentagon budget;
- half the annual **tax breaks for the fossil fuel** industry, 1/83 of annual corporate tax breaks.[10]

Finally, the program would have another economic benefit. At a time when many of the new jobs being created pay poverty wages, spending $24.8 billion modernizing our schools would create 1,041,600 quality construction jobs.[11]

# Conclusion

Our schools ought to be places that tell students that they can make a difference in their lives as well as the life of their community. Instead, as this report has documented, tens of millions of our children – children in all our communities – attend schools in conditions that dramatically lessen their ability to learn and grow. The problems are so severe that they require federal action. The solutions currently being discussed in Washington are a modest but sensible beginning.

There is one other reason to consider this a federal priority. Poor schools pose a threat to our national economic security and our future. Our students already rank miserably when compared to children in other industrialized countries: 21st of 40 in Math and 10th of 40 in Science. In our increasingly global economy, when an educated workforce is critical to a nation's competitiveness, we ought not be handicapping our children by making them learn in cold, leaky, overcrowded buildings.

Two years ago a national bi-partisan survey by Greenburg Quinlan Research and the Tarrance Group found that 76% of the public would favor a $30 billon, 10-year federal school modernization proposal. Another poll by the Luntz group, last year, showed that 81% of the public would support spending $22 billion for repair of school buildings.

National security can no longer be defined solely by the numbers of bombs and jets we stockpile; tax breaks should not only benefit the most powerful. It's time to redefine national security, re-think where our tax dollars go, and put our children's schools in the equation.

## Newark, NJ
## A Race with Developers

*The Ironbound Community Corporation is trying desperately to save space for new schools in part of Newark, NJ. The Ironbound neighborhood clearly needs new schools. Its' six elementary schools are, on average, 124.5 years old, and operating at 162% of capacity.*
*The city is one of the poorest in the country and the state Supreme Court has ordered the state to pay for the $1.7 billion to address city-wide school infrastructure needs. But the state has other priorities as well, and there is no guarantee the total amount will be appropriated, or by when.*

*The city's strategy – to push for more housing development - may bring in more tax dollars, but the housing being developed is creating a need for more schools while taking away scarce land on which to build those schools. In fact, Ironbound saw 400 housing units developed last year, bringing in another 800 students, enough for another school.*

*Legislation that would pay the interest on school bonds would make building schools more affordable. It might also convince the state to act now, before the land disappears.*

The Ironbound Community Corporation is a Community Development Corporation serving low-income people in New Jersey.

**Table II**
**Ironbound's Aging and Overcrowded Schools**

| School | Built | Above Capacity |
|---|---|---|
| Ann St. | 1885 | 36% |
| Oliver St. | 1869 | 20% |
| Wilson Ave. | 1881 | 190% |
| Lafayette St. | 1848 | 17% |
| Hawkins St. | 1887 | 26% |
| South St. | 1883 | 10% |

Source: Star Ledger, Sunday, November 7, 1999

| State | % Schools Needing Extensive Repair, Replacement | Rank | % Increase in School Age Population, 1989-2009 | Rank | Modernization, Construction, Technology Costs (billions) | Rank | Cost of Debt Interest per Pupil | Rank | State Benefit of School Modernization Proposal (millions) | Rank | Construction Jobs Created with Proposal | Rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | | | 18.7% | | $307.5 | | | | $24,800.0 | | 1,041,000 | |
| **Alabama** | **39%** | **9** | **5.4%** | **37** | **$2.3** | **32** | **$135.24** | **48** | **$374.3** | **17** | **15,722** | **17** |
| **Alaska** | **45%** | **2** | **30.1%** | **11** | **$0.9** | **44** | **$504.19** | **7** | **$45.9** | **48** | **1,930** | **48** |
| **Arizona** | **41%** | **6** | **66.4%** | **2** | **$5.7** | **15** | **$573.99** | **3** | **$325.7** | **20** | **13,679** | **20** |
| Arkansas | 25% | 40 | 5.3% | 38 | $2.3 | 32 | $234.31 | 37 | $193.4 | 30 | 8,121 | 30 |
| California | 43% | 4 | 35.2% | 5 | $32.9 | 2 | $133.65 | 49 | $3,057.0 | 1 | 128,400 | 1 |
| Colorado | 32% | 23 | 33.2% | 8 | $4.5 | 22 | $397.77 | 16 | $203.4 | 28 | 8,542 | 28 |
| **Connecticut** | **30%** | **29** | **12.3%** | **25** | **$5.6** | **17** | **$500.25** | **8** | **$196.9** | **29** | **8,271** | **29** D |
| **DC** | **49%** | **1** | **-13.5%** | **50** | - | **51** | **$94.73** | **51** | **$109.2** | **36** | **4,585** | **36** |
| **Delaware** | **40%** | **8** | **15.4%** | **22** | **$1.2** | **40** | **$242.20** | **36** | **$46.9** | **46** | **1,971** | **46** |
| Florida | 31% | 25 | 33.9% | 6 | $5.5 | 19 | $294.07 | 26 | $1,354.0 | 4 | 56,861 | 4 |
| Georgia | 26% | 39 | 36.8% | 4 | $8.5 | 11 | $203.95 | 41 | $612.8 | 9 | 25,738 | 9 |
| Hawaii | 21% | 45 | 33.7% | 7 | $1.0 | 42 | $460.08 | 11 | $49.9 | 44 | 2,094 | 44 |
| **Idaho** | **32%** | **23** | **38.1%** | **3** | **$1.0** | **42** | **$213.63** | **38** | **$56.8** | **43** | **2,387** | **43** |
| **Illinois** | **31%** | **25** | **23.2%** | **14** | **$11.3** | **5** | **$390.11** | **18** | **$1,121.0** | **5** | **47,097** | **5** |
| **Indiana** | **29%** | **32** | **7.1%** | **32** | **$3.5** | **26** | **$506.19** | **6** | **$324.9** | **21** | **13,646** | **21** |
| Iowa | 19% | 50 | -1.2% | 46 | $3.9 | 24 | $185.75 | 43 | $135.7 | 35 | 5,699 | 35 |
| Kansas | 38% | 12 | 7.6% | 31 | $2.3 | 32 | $282.30 | 29 | $156.0 | 34 | 6,552 | 34 |
| Kentucky | 31% | 25 | 1.3% | 42 | $3.1 | 29 | $205.89 | 40 | $344.9 | 19 | 14,486 | 19 |
| **Louisiana** | **39%** | **9** | **-4.1%** | **47** | **$3.9** | **24** | **$247.78** | **35** | **$595.3** | **10** | **25,005** | **10** |
| **Maine** | **38%** | **12** | **-9.6%** | **49** | **$0.7** | **45** | **$373.72** | **21** | **$77.6** | **41** | **3,258** | **41** |
| **Maryland** | **31%** | **25** | **21.5%** | **16** | **$4.8** | **21** | **$173.32** | **44** | **$351.8** | **18** | **14,775** | **18** |
| Massachusetts | 41% | 6 | 13.6% | 23 | $9.9 | 8 | $295.39 | 25 | $405.8 | 13 | 17,042 | 13 |
| Michigan | 22% | 44 | 2.5% | 40 | $9.9 | 8 | $409.96 | 14 | $1,003.0 | 7 | 42,128 | 7 |
| Minnesota | 38% | 12 | 12.1% | 26 | $5.4 | 20 | $498.28 | 9 | $265.3 | 26 | 11,143 | 26 |
| **Mississippi** | **28%** | **34** | **1.3%** | **42** | **$1.6** | **37** | **$207.31** | **39** | **$321.8** | **22** | **13,516** | **22** |
| **Missouri** | **27%** | **35** | **11.7%** | **27** | **$4.5** | **22** | **$290.81** | **27** | **$388.1** | **16** | **16,300** | **16** |
| **Montana** | **20%** | **49** | **11.4%** | **29** | **$1.1** | **41** | **$172.01** | **45** | **$63.9** | **42** | **2,683** | **42** |
| Nebraska | 35% | 19 | 6.1% | 34 | $1.9 | 35 | $250.48 | 34 | $83.2 | 39 | 3,493 | 39 |
| Nevada | 23% | 42 | 104.8% | 1 | $5.6 | 17 | $520.87 | 5 | $89.0 | 37 | 3,738 | 37 |
| New Hampshire | 38% | 12 | 15.9% | 21 | $0.6 | 46 | $332.55 | 22 | $45.3 | 49 | 1,901 | 49 |
| **New Jersey** | **19%** | **50** | **16.4%** | **20** | **$22.0** | **3** | **$296.90** | **24** | **$528.3** | **11** | **22,188** | **11** |
| **New Mexico** | **30%** | **29** | **31.8%** | **9** | **$1.8** | **36** | **$277.22** | **30** | **$187.6** | **32** | **7,881** | **32** |
| **New York** | **33%** | **21** | **11.5%** | **28** | **$50.7** | **1** | **$405.66** | **15** | **$2,747.4** | **2** | **115,389** | **2** |
| North Carolina | 36% | 18 | 25.2% | 13 | $7.5 | 12 | $301.37 | 23 | $396.4 | 14 | 16,647 | 15 |
| North Dakota | 23% | 42 | -7.0% | 48 | $0.5 | 49 | $153.76 | 47 | $46.9 | 46 | 1,971 | 46 |
| Ohio | 38% | 12 | -0.3% | 45 | $10.6 | 6 | $546.95 | 4 | $947.3 | 8 | 39,785 | 8 |
| **Oklahoma** | **30%** | **29** | **1.4%** | **41** | **$2.9** | **31** | **$195.19** | **42** | **$273.8** | **25** | **11,498** | **25** |
| **Oregon** | **39%** | **9** | **20.0%** | **18** | **$3.0** | **30** | **$390.79** | **17** | **$191.2** | **31** | **8,033** | **31** |
| **Pennsylvania** | **21%** | **45** | **5.9%** | **35** | **$10.4** | **7** | **$880.33** | **1** | **$1,013.3** | **6** | **42,559** | **6** |
| Rhode Island | 29% | 32 | 6.7% | 33 | $1.6 | 37 | $251.58 | 33 | $81.4 | 40 | 3,419 | 40 |
| South Carolina | 37% | 17 | 0.7% | 44 | $3.3 | 27 | $414.35 | 13 | $261.1 | 27 | 10,967 | 27 |
| South Dakota | 21% | 45 | 13.2% | 24 | $0.6 | 46 | $167.68 | 46 | $48.1 | 45 | 2,020 | 45 |
| **Tennessee** | **27%** | **35** | **20.3%** | **17** | **$3.2** | **28** | **$259.67** | **32** | **$396.4** | **14** | **16,651** | **14** |
| **Texas** | **27%** | **35** | **30.7%** | **10** | **$13.6** | **4** | **$385.92** | **19** | **$2,074.0** | **3** | **87,106** | **3** |
| **Utah** | **34%** | **20** | **21.9%** | **15** | **$9.0** | **10** | **$266.14** | **31** | **$85.1** | **38** | **3,574** | **38** |
| Vermont | 21% | 45 | 5.9% | 35 | $0.3 | 50 | $289.69 | 28 | $44.0 | 50 | 1,848 | 50 |
| Virginia | 27% | 35 | 16.8% | 19 | $6.9 | 13 | $379.32 | 20 | $320.5 | 23 | 13,462 | 23 |
| Washington | 44% | 3 | 28.9% | 12 | $6.5 | 14 | $478.32 | 10 | $285.7 | 24 | 11,999 | 24 |
| **West Virginia** | **42%** | **5** | **-13.6%** | **51** | **$1.3** | **39** | **$130.45** | **50** | **$178.4** | **33** | **7,493** | **33** |
| **Wisconsin** | **33%** | **21** | **9.7%** | **30** | **$5.7** | **15** | **$718.48** | **2** | **$418.3** | **12** | **17,569** | **12** |
| **Wyoming** | **24%** | **41** | **3.4%** | **39** | **$0.6** | **46** | **$440.49** | **12** | **$42.6** | **51** | **1,790** | **51** |

Sources: 1. Government Accounting Office (GAO), *School Facilities: America's Schools Report Differing Conditions* (GAO HEHS-96-103), Washington, DC, June 1996. 2. U.S. Dept. of Education, *A Back to School Special Report on the Baby Boom Echo: No End in Sight*, August 19, 1999. 3. Data provided by the National Education Association, March 2000. 4. U.S. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data for FY 1997. 5. U.S. Dept. of Education, "2001-2002 Construction and Renovation Initiative: Distribution of $24.8 billion in Bond Authority, Initial Estimates," unpublished information. 6. NPP calculations based on discussion with Jack Lyons, Education Facilities Manager, U.S. Dept. of Education, Washington DC, February 2000.

# Endnotes

## The Need for Repairs

[1] Government Accounting Office (GAO), *School Facilities: America's Schools Report Differing Conditions*, (GAO HEHS-96-103) Washington, DC June 1996.

[2] GAO.

[3] GAO.

[4] American Institute of Architects, Testimony on School Construction and Modernization before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce, July 27, 1999; www.e-architect.com/gov/federal/legissues/schoolcontest.asp.

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[7] Citizens Budget Commission, *The Three Cs: Crowding, Crumbling and Computers: Background on Priority Concerns for the 1999-2000 School Year in New York City*, September 1, 1999.

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[9] City of Philadelphia, Summary of Perks Reutter Assessment, 1996.

[10] National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), How Old are America's Public Schools? January 1999. (NCES 1999-048) http://nces.ed.gov/pubs99/age.html.

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## Overcrowding on the Rise

[1] Citizen's Budget Commission.

[2] The Neighborhood Capital Budget Group.

[3] Los Angeles Unified School District School Reform Office, Facilities Task Force, www.lausd.k12.ca.us/lausd/offices/reform/school_fac.html, 5/28/99.

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[5] U.S. Department of Education, *A Back to School Special Report on the Baby Boom Echo: No End in Sight*, August 19, 1999.

[6] U.S. Department of Education, August 1999.

[7] U.S. Department of Education, *A Back to School Special Report on the Baby Boom Echo, America's Schools Are Overcrowded and Wearing Out*, September 8, 1998.

[8] U.S. Department of Education, August 1999.

[9] American Schools and Universities, Table 3.

[10] Congressional Research Service, statement submitted for the Hearing Record, Senate Finance Committee, 3/3/99.

[11] U.S. Census.

[12] http://www.modernschools.org/.

## The Impact on Learning

[1] Maureen M. Edwards, *Building Conditions, Parental Involvement and Student Achievement in the DC Public School System*, unpublished Master Degree Thesis, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, (ED 264 285).

[2] Glen I. Earthman, Carol S. Cash, Denny Van Berkum, "A Statewide Study of Student Achievement and Behavior and School Building Condition", presented at annual meeting of the Council of Educational Facility Planners, International, Dallas, TX, September 19, 1995.

[3] Glen I. Earthman, *The Impact of School Building Conditions and Student Achievement, and Behavior*, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA, 1998.

[4] Earthman.

[5] Gary Burnett, "Overcrowding in Urban Schools", in *ERIC/CUE Digest* #107, July 1995; http://www.ed.gov/databases/ERIC_Digests/ed384682.html.

[6] NPP interview with Bernard Manchego, February 2000.

[7] NPP interview with Gabriel Gonzales, December 1999.

## The Need for a Stronger Federal Role

[1] State and local contribution based on information from American Schools and Universities; federal contribution calculated at $400 million in QZABs (see page 10).

[2] School District of Philadelphia, *Realities Converge, Revisited: School District Sees Gains On Test Scores and Management Efficiencies, But Fiscal Crisis Is At Hand*, March 1998.

[3] City of Philadelphia, *Perks Reutter Assessment.*

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[11] NPP calculations using *Historical Tables of the Federal Budget of the United States Government FY 2000*, Table 5.1 for Job Training, Community Development Block Grant; Table 5.2 for Environmental Protection; Table 12.3 for Revenue Sharing.

[12] "Quality Counts 99", Education Week on the Web, http//www.edweek.org/spreports/qc99/states/indicators/in-t5b.htm.

## Addressing the Issue

[1] Interview with Robert Canavan, Rebuild America's Schools, and http://www.modernschools.org/actnow.

[2] NPP has analyzed the bond ratings of major cities, urban school districts and a number of rural communities and found that many have a Standard and Poor bond rating of a B or lower, indicating that raising bonds in the future will be difficult and/or more expensive.

[3] Canavan.

[4] U.S. Department of Education, *The Impact of the Administration's Tax-Credit Bond Proposal in Communities Throughout the Country*, February 29, 2000; http://www.ed.gov/inits/construction/impact.html.

[5] Percentage determined by comparing $24.8 billion spent over the 5 years with $112 billion needed to repair schools as determined by the GAO and by $308 billion estimated to meet modernization, new construction and technology needs determined by the NEA.

[6] Canavan.

[7] U.S. Department of Education, *The Impact of the Administration's Tax-Credit Bond Proposal in Communities Throughout the Country.*

[8] U.S. Department of Education, *The Impact of the Administration's Tax-Credit Bond Proposal in Communities Throughout the Country.*

[9] Cost to median household based on NPP calculations of median household's tax share of $1.8 billion.

[10] Per capita comparison based on U.S. population as of March 17, 2000, from U.S. Census; comparison to other physical infrastructure based on *Budget of the U.S. Government, Historical Tables of the U.S. Government, FY 2000*; comparison to fighter jets and Pentagon budget based on NPP, *Choices That Matter*, 1999; comparison to tax breaks from foreign tax shelters for U.S. multinational corporations, from Citizens for Tax Justice, www.ctj.org/html/welfar99.htm; comparison to tax breaks for U.S. corporations, Charles Sennott, "The $150 Billion Welfare Recipients: U.S. Corporations" in the *Boston Globe*, July 7, 1996.

[11] Discussion with Jack Lyons, U.S. Department of Education, March 20, 2000.

## Conclusion

[1] *National Education Goals Panel – National Education Report, Building a Nation of Learners, 1999*, test scores.

[2] Greenberg Quinlan Associates and the Terrance Group, A National Bipartisan Survey on School Modernization, January 1998.

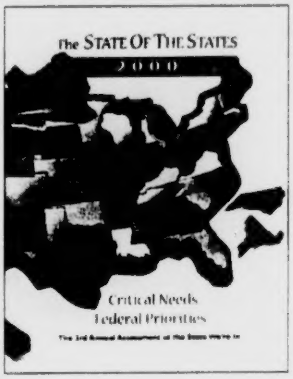
[3] The Luntz Research Companies, *The Rebuild America Infrastructure Survey*, January 1999.

The **NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT** produces reports for organizers, national, state and community groups, analysts, advocates and elected officials. NPP offers a variety of at-a-glance overviews in one to four page formats, localized press kits for each release, talking points for general use and a variety of other tools for organizers and the public. Please contact NPP for information.

The National Priorities Project has many releases currently in publication. Hundreds of state and city reports are available for free download through our web site, **www.natprior.org.** Hard copy of these and our national reports are also available for order directly through NPP. For more information please email NPP at: **info@natprior.org** or call us at **(413) 584-9556.**

Ordering information for recent publications and the new print, **National Security?** is below:

## The State of the States 2000: The Third Annual Assessment of the State We're In



This release includes a 28-page national report, 4-page reports for all 50 states and 2-page reports for more than 100 cities. It examines a 20-year federal spending trend in five areas of critical social need: economic security, education, the environment, health care and housing and juxtaposes the federal commitment to meet those needs with the spending on unnecessary cold war type weapons.

**National Report** • $14.95 ea. S & H $2.50
Quantity _____ Sub Total $_______
State _______ Quantity _____ $3.00 ea.
$1.00 S & H (when ordered alone)
City _______ Quantity _____ $2.00 ea.
$1.00 S & H (when ordered alone)
**SubTotal $_______**
**Total $_______**

## Choices That Matter: Federal Decisions and Your Hometown

CHOICES THAT MATTER
Federal Decisions and Your Hometown

This four-color, illustrated information package, NPP's 1999 State of the States Release, includes an 8-page national overview; a three-panel illustrated discretionary spending pullout, two inserts including a state-by-state data table, talking points and local reports for all 50 states and dozens of U.S. cities.

**National, State & City Reports,** (all-inclusive) • $11.95 ea.
S & H $2.50
State _______ Quantity _____ **Total $_______**

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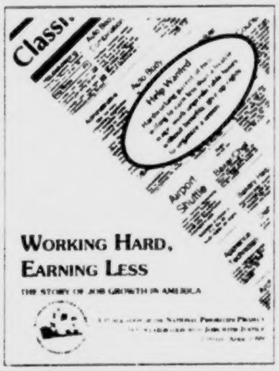
## Working Hard, Earning Less: The Story of Job Growth in America

This 24-page national report is published by NPP in collaboration with Jobs with Justice. It was the first known research publication to establish a livable wage for each of the 50 states. Among other points, this report reveals the twenty jobs with the most growth and shows that 74% of those jobs pay less than a livable wage. Local reports are available for all 50 states. (April 1999)



**National Report** • $7.95 ea. S & H $2.00
Quantity _____ **SubTotal $_____**
**State Reports** • 4-page Talking Points • $3.00 ea. S & H $2.00
State _______ Quantity _____ **SubTotal $_____**

2-page Organizing Sheet • $1.00 ea. S & H $1.00
(when ordered alone)
State _______ Quantity _____ **SubTotal $_____**
**Total $_________**

## National Security?

Created by New York artist Amy Bartell, this print uses a combination of images, words and color to present a strong message. It questions our nations' current priorities favoring unnecessary defense spending, corporate welfare and tax breaks for the wealthy over the needs of the general public. The print features the poignant quote of former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan "The stakes are too high for government to be a spectator sport." This beautiful artwork is available in three formats: a 14 x 18 print, note cards and post cards.

**Prints:** Signed $29.00 • Unsigned $15.00
**Note Cards:** $22.00 • Pack of 12 cards w/ envelopes
**Post Cards:** $8.00 • 12 Postcards
**Gift Pack:** $25.00 • 12 Note Cards w/envelopes & 6 Post Cards

Other titles available from NPP include:

**Are You Winning or Losing?,**
32-page State of the States report on Federal Spending Priorities. (1998)

**America's Heart and Soul: Our Children at Risk,**
12-page report on Americas' Communities and Children. (1996)

**Voter Education Campaign:**
- **Jobs and the Economy,** 2-page reports commenting on the condition of America's work force.
- **America's Children,** 2-page report describing the condition of children in America.
- **Seniors,** 2-page report detailing the situation of America's seniors. (1996)

**Creating a Common Agenda,**
72-page report on national budget priorities. (1995)

Shipping Information & Other NPP Resources on Next Page

## Become a Local Organizing Partner

***The National Priorities Project specializes in producing easy-to-understand reports and fact sheets that explain the impact of federal spending policies on a national, state and city basis.*** We work continually with national organizations and local citizen groups to produce localized material, as part of our ***Grassroots Factbook*** series, that illustrates what federal spending decisions mean to families across America.

***You can help make these critical choices a larger part of the public debate*** by joining our Local Organizing Partners Program. This program is part of NPP's effort to build stronger relationships with grassroots organizations and coalitions across the nation. More than 80 community groups in 33 states currently participate as Partners. This type of collaboration brings national policy to the doorsteps of people across the nation in a way that is easy to understand and accessible for all.

Our ***Local Organizing Partners*** Program is designed to be accessible and affordable. If you are interested in becoming a Partner please contact Pamela Schwartz for more information about this and other exciting opportunities to work with NPP.

### At Your Service

**The staff of the National Priorities Project is available to offer expert testimony, conference or other presentations on a variety of topics, classroom lectures or technical assistance based on its research and publications.**

**For more information please contact Stacy Roth at (413) 584-9556.**

### ◆ Local Organizing Partner Information

Name of Organization

Staff Contact & Title

Address

City State Zip Email

Phone Web Site address (if applicable)

### ◆ Shipping Information

Name Title

Organization

Address

City State Zip Email

Phone Web Site address (if applicable)

**Quantity pricing available; please call for information.** NPP is committed to providing these important organizing tools to groups all over the country, regardless of the organization's ability to give financially. Please contact NPP for more information about how your group can benefit.

# Acknowledgements

*The* ***National Priorities Project*** *would like to express its gratitude to all of the organizations and individuals that contributed their time and energy to the creation of*

**Recess is Over! It's Time to Address Our Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools.**

Cynthia Adcock, Evergreen College, Olympia, WA; Ray Adkins, Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, New York, NY; Anna Garcia Ashley, WISDOM, Racine, WI; Drew Astolfi, National People's Action, Chicago, IL; David Barrett, St. Louis, MO; Jeff Bartow, Interfaith Leadership Project, Cicero, IL; Angela Beavers, Concord, NH; Michael Casserly, Council of the Great City Schools, Washington, DC; Bob Canavan, Rebuild America's Schools, Washington, DC; Faith Crampton, Joel Packer, National Education Association, Washington, DC; Tim Clark; Mary Dailey, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, New York, NY; Gabriel Gonzalez, Northwest Neighborhood Federation, Chicago, IL; Albertha Hasten, Shirley Van Damme, Louisiana Communities United, Gonzalez, LA; Patrice Iatarola, New York University Institute for Education and Social Policy; David Kimball, Parent Organizing Project, Los Angeles, CA; George Levinger, Amherst, MA; Jack Lyons, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC; Claire Marcy, Melissa Spatz, Blocks Together, Chicago, IL; Bernie Manchego, DeLand, FL; Christine Marinoni, Parent Organizing Consortium, New York, NY; Gordon Mayer, National Training and Information Center, Chicago, IL; Ann McCulloch, Rebuild America, Washington, DC; Ed McLiney, Kansas City, MO; Caroline Murray, Anti-Displacement Project, Springfield, MA; Tara Parrish, Baton Rouge, LA; Alex Poeter, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Chicago, IL; Hyacinth Yennie, HART, Hartford, CT; Nancy Zak, Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark, NJ.

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*NPP offers a special note of gratitude to the Colombe Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Wade Greene and the Rockefeller Investment Group, the Town Creek Foundation, and the many other foundations and individuals whose generous support made this report possible. NPA would also like to offer a note of thanks to Barbara Taveras at the Hazen Foundation.*

## Recess is Over! includes stories from across the country:

*"Under the elevated train that runs above Jerome Avenue in front of the school, a row of five mobile classrooms park every day. These buses are used to hold classes that do not fit into the main school building."*

• *The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, The Bronx, NY*

*"In the space between the roof and the ceiling was a sagging part where water would collect. So the day after it rained — and a good rain in Louisiana is a downpour — water would then 'rain' for the next four days on the lunchroom."*

• *Tara Parrish, 11th Grade Teacher, Woodlawn High School,* Baton Rouge, LA

The Town of Barnstead does not have a high school. Instead, the town runs five buses to high schools in neighboring towns... However, due to overcrowding, the high schools have stopped taking students unless they excel in some regard. *"If you're an 8th grade student...you have to apply to be accepted to public high school. And you can be denied for any reason."*

• *Tim Clark, Chairman, Barnstead School Committee,* Barnstead, NH

National Priorities Project
Telling America's story every day

**NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT**
17 NEW SOUTH STREET, SUITE 302
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Grassroots Factbook
Volume 3 • Series 2 • April 2000

# Recess Is Over!

NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT
Telling America's story every day

A *Grassroots Factbook* series published by the National Priorities Project.

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Telling America's story every day

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263-C

*Since 1983*

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Please notify Stacy Roth at 413-584-9556 or sign and return this statement to:

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*The National Priorities Project (NPP) offers citizen and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice.*

NPP is a community education, research and training organization that for more than 17 years has dedicated itself to making our nation's budget priorities something that ordinary citizens can help shape and understand. In addition to a national perspective, NPP analyzes the impact of federal spending on the state and local level, providing citizen groups, elected officials, the media and policy analysts with the information they need to respond to the problems faced in their own communities. The Project maintains an extensive database of state and local information and works hard to make that data immediately accessible. NPP is pleased to host one of the largest free information sites on the World Wide Web with more than 1600 pages of data and reports available to the public. For an example of the information available, visit our website at **www.natprior.org**.

The National Priorities Project collaborates with national organizations and local citizen groups, including more than 75 specific Local Organizing Partners in 35 states, to produce and disseminate these state and city reports to the broadest possible audience. In 1998 NPP released its first Annual State of the States report, ***Are You Winning or Losing?*** It was followed in 1999 by ***Choices That Matter: Federal Decisions and Your Hometown.*** *Choices* is seen as particularly important since it was the first such analysis since the combining of military and social spending under one spending cap, in the Discretionary Budget. Other recent NPP reports include: ***Working Hard, Earning Less: The Story of Job Growth in America*** (the first national publication to establish a living wage for each of the 50 states), ***Compromising Our Communities, CDBG at Risk*** and ***On the Chopping Block: Potential Cuts to Select Discretionary Programs, Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations***.

NPP also publishes the ***Grassroots Factbook*** series several times a year. This is a tool for providing regular updates on the impact of current spending proposals and debate on our nation's states and cities. The ***Factboo***k is a series of in-depth reports, at-a-glance fact sheets and organizing kits that focus on the major decisions facing communities as the federal budget year progresses. NPP releases a ***Factbook*** with any major national publication it produces.

The National Priorities Project is also proud to announce the creation of its ***Congressional District (CD) Profiles Database***. Expected to be the only one of its kind, the database will be fully interactive and designed to provide the user with a CD Profile that includes basic demographic data, in-depth information on unmet social needs, the amount of household income that goes from your community to various programs, how much comes back to the CD and much more. The ***CD Profiles Database*** is projected to be operational later this year. NPP expects to provide its first publication using Congressional District breakdowns in the Fall of 2000.

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Dear Colleague:

This report joins the unique local impact research of the National Priorities Project(NPP) with the grassroots leadership of National People's Action(NPA) organizations across the country. It urges the nation - and the federal government - to address what is becoming a national tragedy – the condition of our nation's public schools.

Our public education system has been the foundation of our great democracy, our unique way of developing the intellectual and social character of every child in preparation for effective participation in that system. This process – and those values – are housed in our nation's 100,000 public school buildings.

Today, as this report documents, too many of those buildings are falling apart and overcrowded. In urban, suburban and rural communities across the country, our public school buildings are literally endangering the lives and learning of our children and discouraging our teachers. Instead of imparting in our students a sense of democracy, we are creating fear and cynicism. Through analysis and first-hand stories, we show the inability of local communities to address this monumental problem on their own.

Our call is urgent. We're ringing the bell, sounding the alarm. ***Recess is over!*** It's time for the federal government to do its fair share to save our public schools.

Sincerely,

Greg L. Speeter
Executive Director
National Priorities Project

P.S. We have great information about your school district! We want to show how the education policies we discuss in this report are important to every person across the nation. Therefore, at the NPP web site, **www.natprior.org**, you will find a page of relevant basic information on each of the 15,000 school districts in the country. Also remember to look for the two-page, state-by-state versions of this report available for download.

| State | % Schools Needing Extensive Repair, Replacement | Rank | % Increase in School Age Population, 1989-2009 | Rank | Modernization, Construction, Technology Costs (billions) | Rank | Cost of Debt Interest per Pupil | Rank | State Benefit of School Modernization Proposal (millions) | Rank | Construction Jobs Created with Proposal | Rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | | | 18.7% | | $307.5 | | | | $24,800.0 | | 1,041,000 | |
| Alabama | 39% | 9 | 5.4% | 37 | $2.3 | 32 | $135.24 | 48 | $374.3 | 17 | 15,722 | 17 |
| Alaska | 45% | 2 | 30.1% | 11 | $0.9 | 44 | $504.19 | 7 | $45.9 | 48 | 1,930 | 48 |
| Arizona | 41% | 6 | 66.4% | 2 | $5.7 | 15 | $573.99 | 3 | $325.7 | 20 | 13,679 | 20 |
| Arkansas | 25% | 40 | 5.3% | 38 | $2.3 | 32 | $234.31 | 37 | $193.4 | 30 | 8,121 | 30 |
| California | 43% | 4 | 35.2% | 5 | $32.9 | 2 | $133.65 | 49 | $3,057.0 | 1 | 128,400 | 1 |
| Colorado | 32% | 23 | 33.2% | 8 | $4.5 | 22 | $397.77 | 16 | $203.4 | 28 | 8,542 | 28 |
| Connecticut | 30% | 29 | 12.3% | 25 | $5.6 | 17 | $500.25 | 8 | $196.9 | 29 | 8,271 | 29 D |
| DC | 49% | 1 | -13.5% | 50 | - | 51 | $94.73 | 51 | $109.2 | 36 | 4,585 | 36 |
| Delaware | 40% | 8 | 15.4% | 22 | $1.2 | 40 | $242.20 | 36 | $46.9 | 46 | 1,971 | 46 |
| Florida | 31% | 25 | 33.9% | 6 | $5.5 | 19 | $294.07 | 26 | $1,354.0 | 4 | 56,861 | 4 |
| Georgia | 26% | 39 | 36.8% | 4 | $8.5 | 11 | $203.95 | 41 | $612.8 | 9 | 25,738 | 9 |
| Hawaii | 21% | 45 | 33.7% | 7 | $1.0 | 42 | $460.08 | 11 | $49.9 | 44 | 2,094 | 44 |
| Idaho | 32% | 23 | 38.1% | 3 | $1.0 | 42 | $213.63 | 38 | $56.8 | 43 | 2,387 | 43 |
| Illinois | 31% | 25 | 23.2% | 14 | $11.3 | 5 | $390.11 | 18 | $1,121.0 | 5 | 47,097 | 5 |
| Indiana | 29% | 32 | 7.1% | 32 | $3.5 | 26 | $506.19 | 6 | $324.9 | 21 | 13,646 | 21 |
| Iowa | 19% | 50 | -1.2% | 46 | $3.9 | 24 | $185.75 | 43 | $135.7 | 35 | 5,699 | 35 |
| Kansas | 38% | 12 | 7.6% | 31 | $2.3 | 32 | $282.30 | 29 | $156.0 | 34 | 6,552 | 34 |
| Kentucky | 31% | 25 | 1.3% | 42 | $3.1 | 29 | $205.89 | 40 | $344.9 | 19 | 14,486 | 19 |
| Louisiana | 39% | 9 | -4.1% | 47 | $3.9 | 24 | $247.78 | 35 | $595.3 | 10 | 25,005 | 10 |
| Maine | 38% | 12 | -9.6% | 49 | $0.7 | 45 | $373.72 | 21 | $77.6 | 41 | 3,258 | 41 |
| Maryland | 31% | 25 | 21.5% | 16 | $4.8 | 21 | $173.32 | 44 | $351.8 | 18 | 14,775 | 18 |
| Massachusetts | 41% | 6 | 13.6% | 23 | $9.9 | 8 | $295.39 | 25 | $405.8 | 13 | 17,042 | 13 |
| Michigan | 22% | 44 | 2.5% | 40 | $9.9 | 8 | $409.96 | 14 | $1,003.0 | 7 | 42,128 | 7 |
| Minnesota | 38% | 12 | 12.1% | 26 | $5.4 | 20 | $498.28 | 9 | $265.3 | 26 | 11,143 | 26 |
| Mississippi | 28% | 34 | 1.3% | 42 | $1.6 | 37 | $207.31 | 39 | $321.8 | 22 | 13,516 | 22 |
| Missouri | 27% | 35 | 11.7% | 27 | $4.5 | 22 | $290.81 | 27 | $388.1 | 16 | 16,300 | 16 |
| Montana | 20% | 49 | 11.4% | 29 | $1.1 | 41 | $172.01 | 45 | $63.9 | 42 | 2,683 | 42 |
| Nebraska | 35% | 19 | 6.1% | 34 | $1.9 | 35 | $250.48 | 34 | $83.2 | 39 | 3,493 | 39 |
| Nevada | 23% | 42 | 104.8% | 1 | $5.6 | 17 | $520.87 | 5 | $89.0 | 37 | 3,738 | 37 |
| New Hampshire | 38% | 12 | 15.9% | 21 | $0.6 | 46 | $332.55 | 22 | $45.3 | 49 | 1,901 | 49 |
| New Jersey | 19% | 50 | 16.4% | 20 | $22.0 | 3 | $296.90 | 24 | $528.3 | 11 | 22,188 | 11 |
| New Mexico | 30% | 29 | 31.8% | 9 | $1.8 | 36 | $277.22 | 30 | $187.6 | 32 | 7,881 | 32 |
| New York | 33% | 21 | 11.5% | 28 | $50.7 | 1 | $405.66 | 15 | $2,747.4 | 2 | 115,389 | 2 |
| North Carolina | 36% | 18 | 25.2% | 13 | $7.5 | 12 | $301.37 | 23 | $396.4 | 14 | 16,647 | 15 |
| North Dakota | 23% | 42 | -7.0% | 48 | $0.5 | 49 | $153.76 | 47 | $46.9 | 46 | 1,971 | 46 |
| Ohio | 38% | 12 | -0.3% | 45 | $10.6 | 6 | $546.95 | 4 | $947.3 | 8 | 39,785 | 8 |
| Oklahoma | 30% | 29 | 1.4% | 41 | $2.9 | 31 | $195.19 | 42 | $273.8 | 25 | 11,498 | 25 |
| Oregon | 39% | 9 | 20.0% | 18 | $3.0 | 30 | $390.79 | 17 | $191.2 | 31 | 8,033 | 31 |
| Pennsylvania | 21% | 45 | 5.9% | 35 | $10.4 | 7 | $880.33 | 1 | $1,013.3 | 6 | 42,559 | 6 |
| Rhode Island | 29% | 32 | 6.7% | 33 | $1.6 | 37 | $251.58 | 33 | $81.4 | 40 | 3,419 | 40 |
| South Carolina | 37% | 17 | 0.7% | 44 | $3.3 | 27 | $414.35 | 13 | $261.1 | 27 | 10,967 | 27 |
| South Dakota | 21% | 45 | 13.2% | 24 | $0.6 | 46 | $167.68 | 46 | $48.1 | 45 | 2,020 | 45 |
| Tennessee | 27% | 35 | 20.3% | 17 | $3.2 | 28 | $259.67 | 32 | $396.4 | 14 | 16,651 | 14 |
| Texas | 27% | 35 | 30.7% | 10 | $13.6 | 4 | $385.92 | 19 | $2,074.0 | 3 | 87,106 | 3 |
| Utah | 34% | 20 | 21.9% | 15 | $9.0 | 10 | $266.14 | 31 | $85.1 | 38 | 3,574 | 38 |
| Vermont | 21% | 45 | 5.9% | 35 | $0.3 | 50 | $289.69 | 28 | $44.0 | 50 | 1,848 | 50 |
| Virginia | 27% | 35 | 16.8% | 19 | $6.9 | 13 | $379.32 | 20 | $320.5 | 23 | 13,462 | 23 |
| Washington | 44% | 3 | 28.9% | 12 | $6.5 | 14 | $478.32 | 10 | $285.7 | 24 | 11,999 | 24 |
| West Virginia | 42% | 5 | -13.6% | 51 | $1.3 | 39 | $130.45 | 50 | $178.4 | 33 | 7,493 | 33 |
| Wisconsin | 33% | 21 | 9.7% | 30 | $5.7 | 15 | $718.48 | 2 | $418.3 | 12 | 17,569 | 12 |
| Wyoming | 24% | 41 | 3.4% | 39 | $0.6 | 46 | $440.49 | 12 | $42.6 | 51 | 1,790 | 51 |

Sources: 1. Government Accounting Office (GAO), *School Facilities: America's Schools Report Differing Conditions* (GAO HEHS-96-103), Washington, DC, June 1996. 2. U.S. Dept. of Education, *A Back to School Special Report on the Baby Boom Echo: No End in Sight*, August 19, 1999. 3. Data provided by the National Education Association, March 2000. 4. U.S. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data for FY 1997. 5. U.S. Dept. of Education, "2001-2002 Construction and Renovation Initiative: Distribution of $24.8 billion in Bond Authority, Initial Estimates," unpublished information. 6. NPP calculations based on discussion with Jack Lyons, Education Facilities Manager, U.S. Dept. of Education, Washington DC, February 2000.

Grassroots Factbook
Volume 3 • Series 2 • April 2000

Alabama

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Alabama and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Alabama's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

39% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

59% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 39,000 children (a 5.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

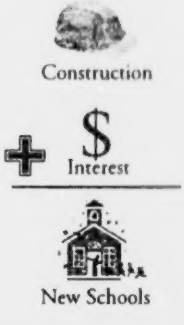
According to a study by the National Education Association: It will cost $2.3 billion to modernize existing public schools in Alabama, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Alabama Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Alabama includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Alabama in 1997 was $135.24 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Alabama

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Alabama and its communities by $547 million or 82%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

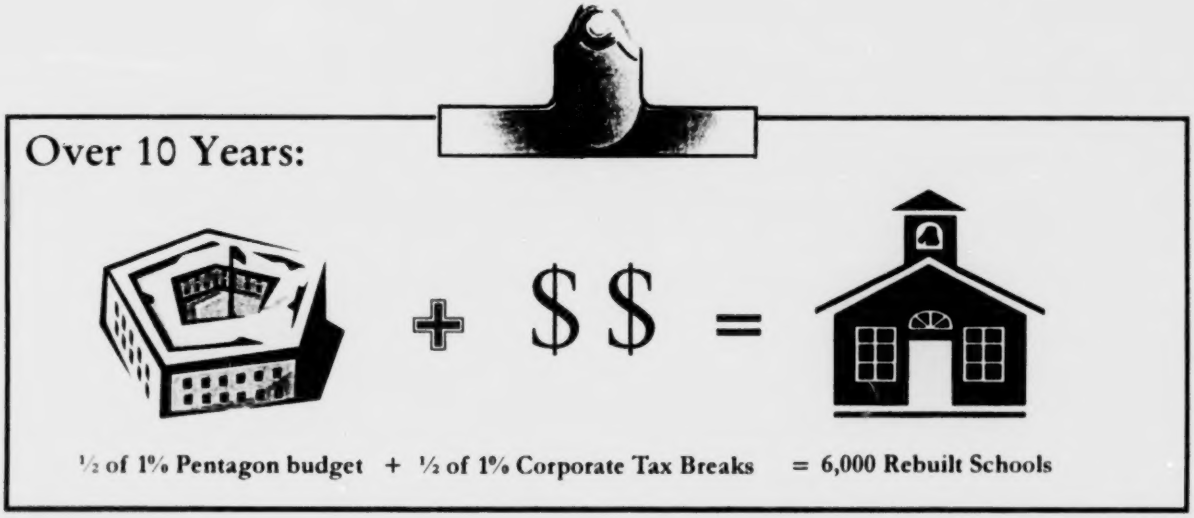
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 16.62% to 9.56%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Alabama would be eligible for $374.3 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 15,722 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Alabama taxpayers would be $3.35.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $$ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Volume 3 ◆ Series 2 ◆ April 2000

Alaska

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Alaska and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Alaska's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

45% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

69% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 33,000 children (a 30.1% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

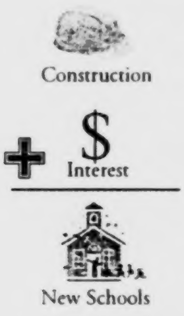
It will cost $868.8 million to modernize existing public schools in Alaska, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Alaska Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Alaska includes $12.9 million in construction, and $9.6 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Alaska in 1997 was $504.19 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Alaska

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Alaska and its communities by $67.9 million or 53%.

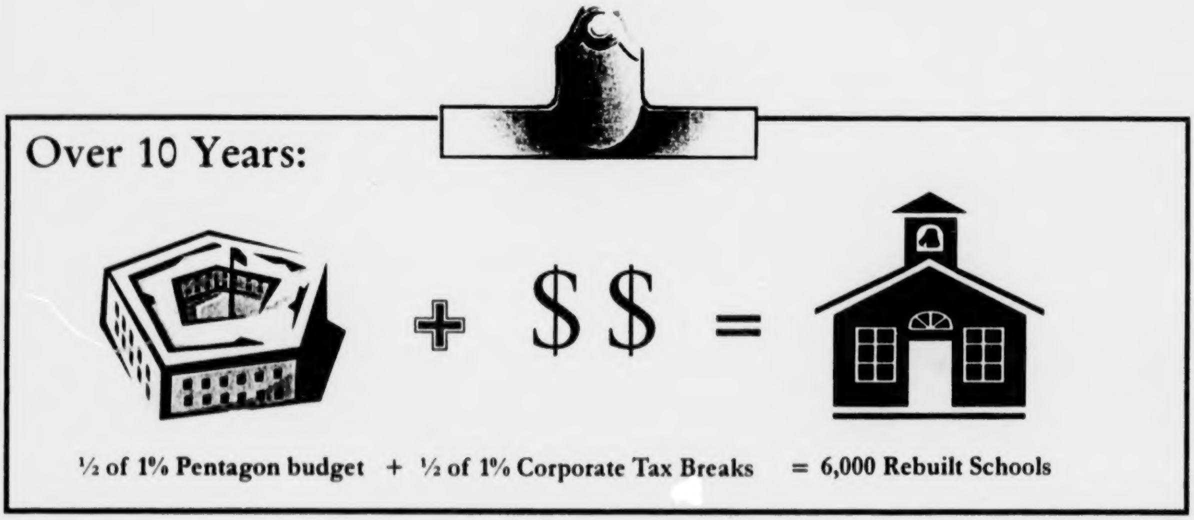
Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Alaska would be eligible for $45.9 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 1,930 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Alaska taxpayers would be $6.61.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
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# Arizona

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Arizona and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Arizona's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

41% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

64% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 403,000 children (a 66.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

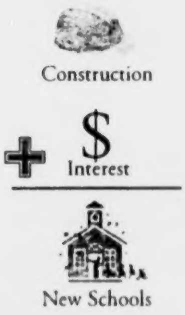
According to a study by the National Education Association:
It will cost $5.7 billion to modernize existing public schools in Arizona, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Arizona Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Arizona includes $18.9 million in construction, and $14.2 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Arizona in 1997 was $573.99 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Arizona

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Arizona and its communities by $281.7 million or 65%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 12.89% to 9.28%.

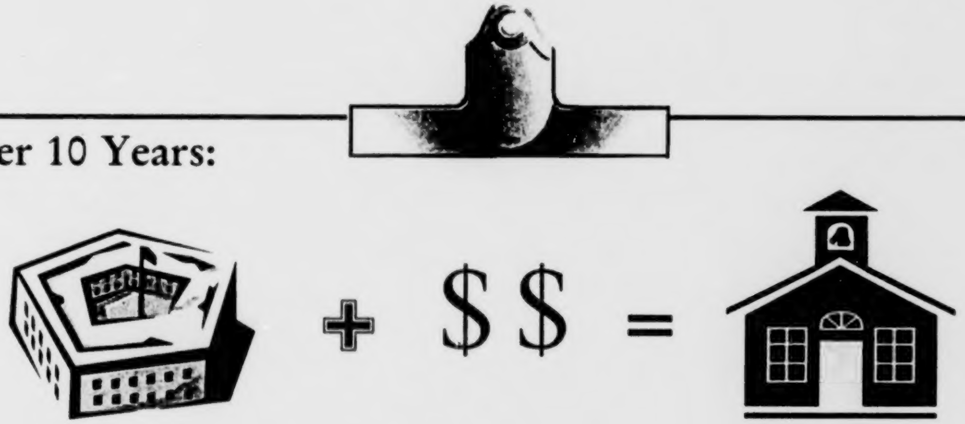
## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Arizona would be eligible for $325.7 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 13,679 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Arizona taxpayers would be $3.52.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.

**Over 10 Years:**



**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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# Arkansas

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Arkansas and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Arkansas' Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

25% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

42% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 23,000 children (a 5.3% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:
It will cost $2.3 billion to modernize existing public schools in Arkansas, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Arkansas Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Arkansas includes $12.3 million in construction, and $9.2 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Arkansas in 1997 was $234.31 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Arkansas

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Arkansas and its communities by $312.5 million or 83%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

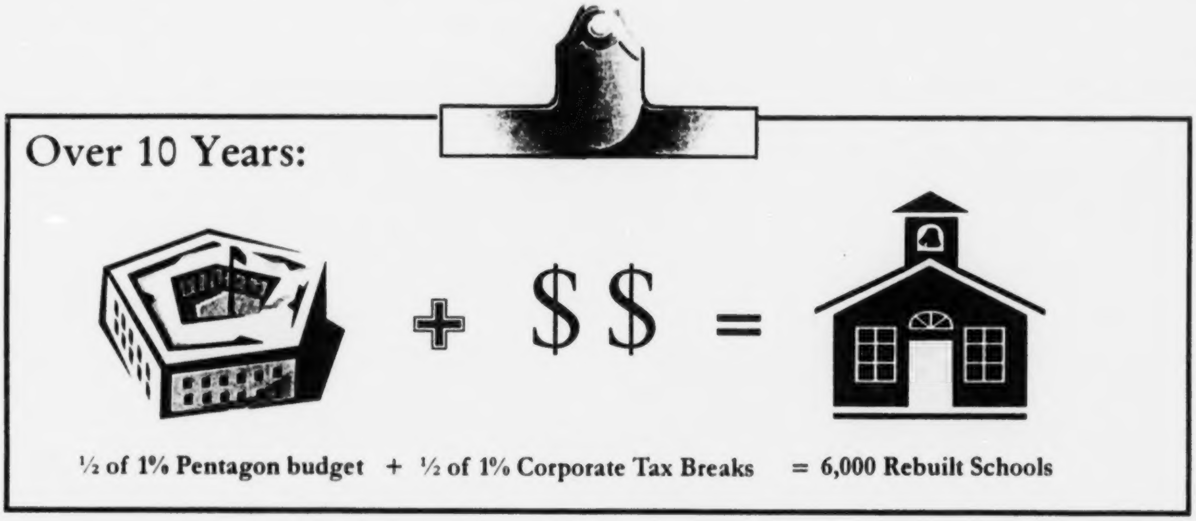
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 16.62% to 7.84%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Arkansas would be eligible for $193.4 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 8,121 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Arkansas taxpayers would be $1.81.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# California

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In California and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### California's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

43% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

71% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 1,678,000 children (a 35.2% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:
It will cost $32.9 billion to modernize existing public schools in California, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many California Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+ $ Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in California includes $18.9 million in construction, and $14.2 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in California in 1997 was $133.65 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to California

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to California and its communities by $3.3 billion or 74%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 10.13% to 8.17%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. California would be eligible for $3.1 billion in school construction bonds, which would generate 128,400 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to California taxpayers would be $4.68.

## Redefining National Security

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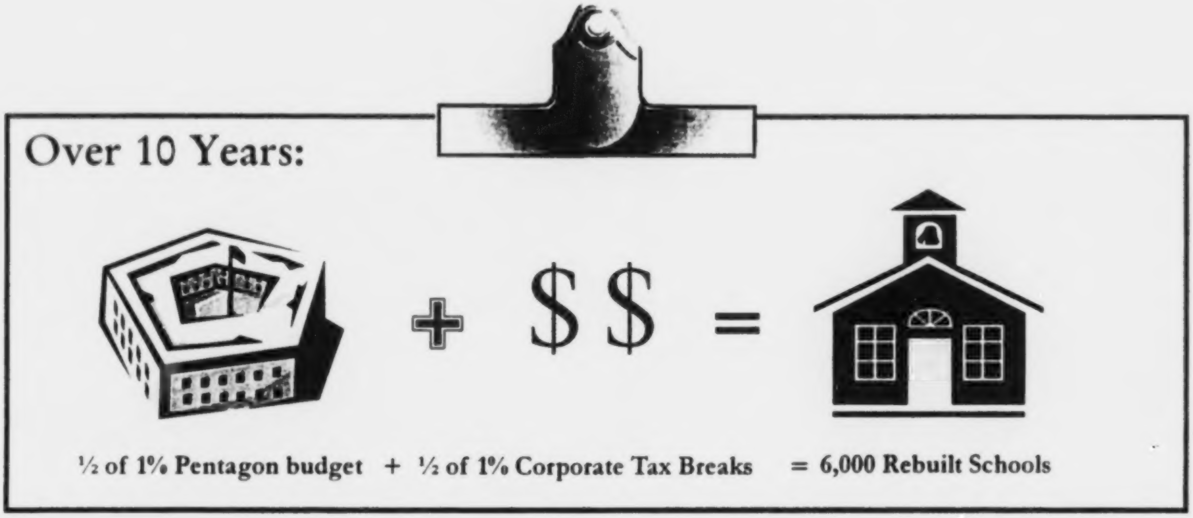
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Colorado

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Colorado and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Colorado's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

32% of our elementary, **secondary and high schools** need total replacement or **extensive repair.**

58% of our schools **need extensive repair of at least** one major building **feature, such as a roof or foundation.**

Although communities nationwide **have doubled what they** spent in 1990 **on school construction, it is not meeting the** need. If we continue to **modernize schools at this rate, it will** take 50 years just **to fix up all the schools that were deemed in** bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**School age population is projected** to grow by 187,000 **children (a 33.2% increase) between** 1989 and 2009, resulting in **overcrowding in** many schools.

**According to a study by the** National Education Association:

**It will cost $4.5 billion to modernize** existing public schools **in Colorado, build schools to meet** rising enrollments, equip **schools with modern technology** and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Colorado Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Colorado includes $11.8 million in construction, and $8.8 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Colorado in 1997 was $397.77 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Colorado

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Colorado and its communities by $304 million or 75%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 5.91% to 5.23%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Colorado would be eligible for $203.4 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 8,542 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Colorado taxpayers would be $5.67.

## Redefining National Security

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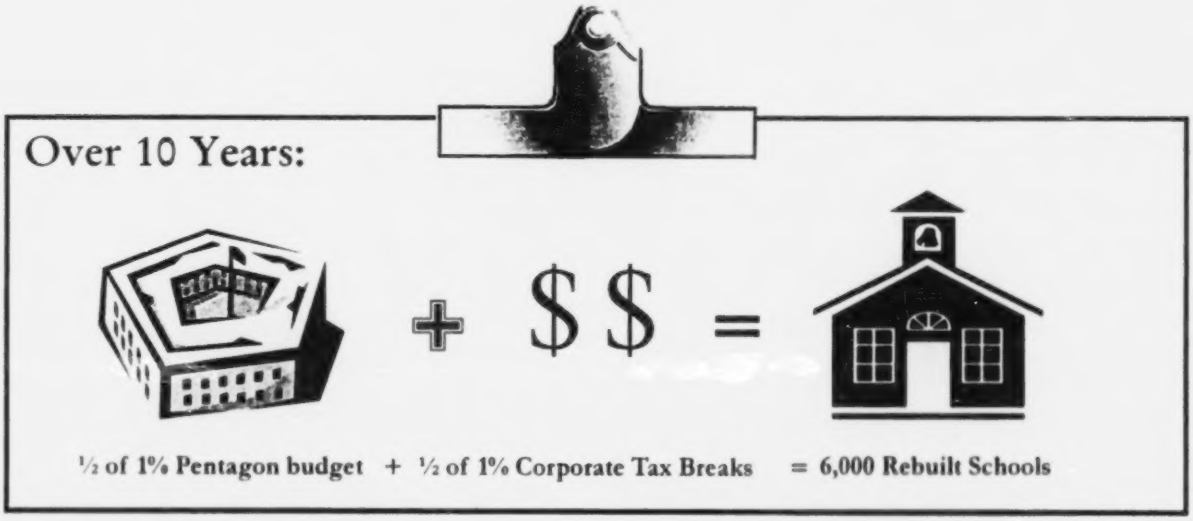
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# Connecticut

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# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Connecticut and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Connecticut's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

30% of our elementary, **secondary and high schools** need total replacement or **extensive repair.**

58% of our schools need **extensive repair of at least** one major building feature, **such as a roof or foundation.**

Although communities nationwide **have doubled what they** spent in 1990 on school **construction, it is not meeting the** need. If we continue to **modernize schools at this rate, it will** take 50 years just to fix up **all the schools that were deemed in** bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**School age population** is projected to grow by 57,000 **children (a 12.3% increase)** between 1989 and 2009, **resulting in overcrowding** in many schools.

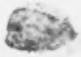
**According to a study by the** National Education Association:
**It will cost $5.6 billion to modernize** existing public schools **in Connecticut, build schools to** meet rising enrollments, **equip schools with modern technology** and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Connecticut Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



Construction

+ $
Interest

New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Connecticut includes $19.6 million in construction, and $14.7 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Connecticut in 1997 was $500.25 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Connecticut

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Connecticut and its communities by $490.4 million or 84%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

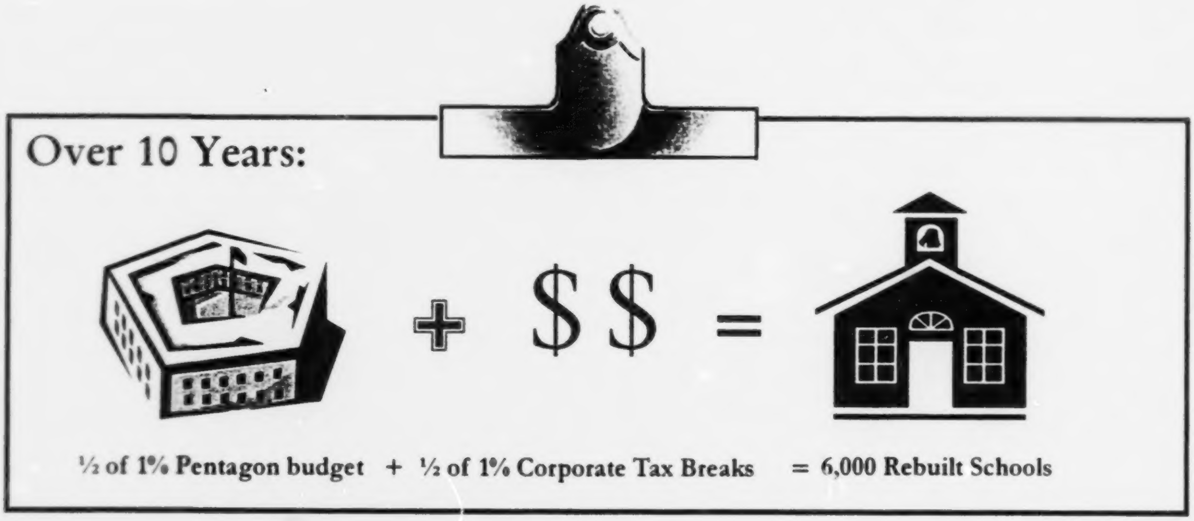
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 5.91% to 3.48%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Connecticut would be eligible for $196.9 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 8,271 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Connecticut taxpayers would be $5.74.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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**Grassroots Factbook**
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# Delaware

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Delaware and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Delaware's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

40% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

70% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 15,000 children (a 15.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

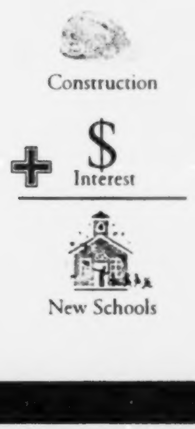
It will cost $1.2 billion to modernize existing public schools in Delaware, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Delaware Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



◆ The cost of a new high school in Delaware includes $28.9 million in construction, and $21.7 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Delaware in 1997 was $242.20 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Delaware

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Delaware and its communities by $94.2 million or 76%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

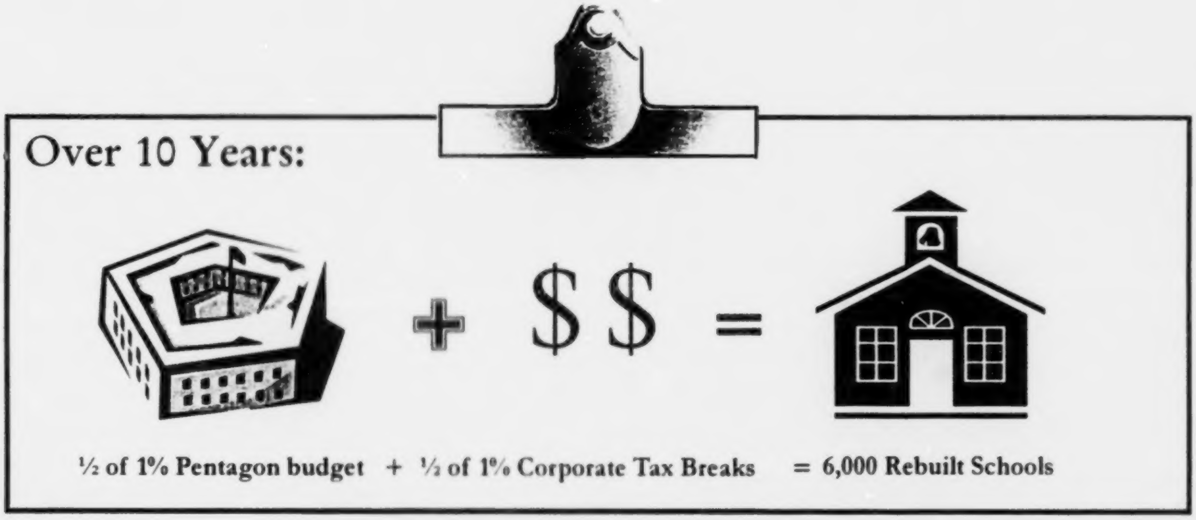
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 11.41% to 7.61%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Delaware would be eligible for $46.9 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 1,971 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Delaware taxpayers would be $5.10.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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Washington, D.C.

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Washington, D.C. and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Washington, D.C.'s Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

49% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

91% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

Nationwide, school age population is expected to grow by 7,600,000 children (an 18.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

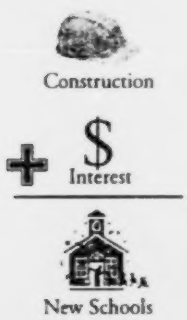
According to a study by the National Education Association: Nationwide, it will cost $308 billion to modernize existing public schools, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers. (Data is not available for Washington, D.C.)

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Washington, D.C. Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Washington, D.C. includes $28.9 million in construction, and $21.7 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Washington, D.C. in 1997 was $94.73 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Washington, D.C.

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Washington, D.C. and its communities by $130.4 million or 54%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 16.19% to 10.53%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Washington, D.C. would be eligible for $109.2 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 4,585 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Washington, D.C. taxpayers would be $3.04.

## Redefining National Security

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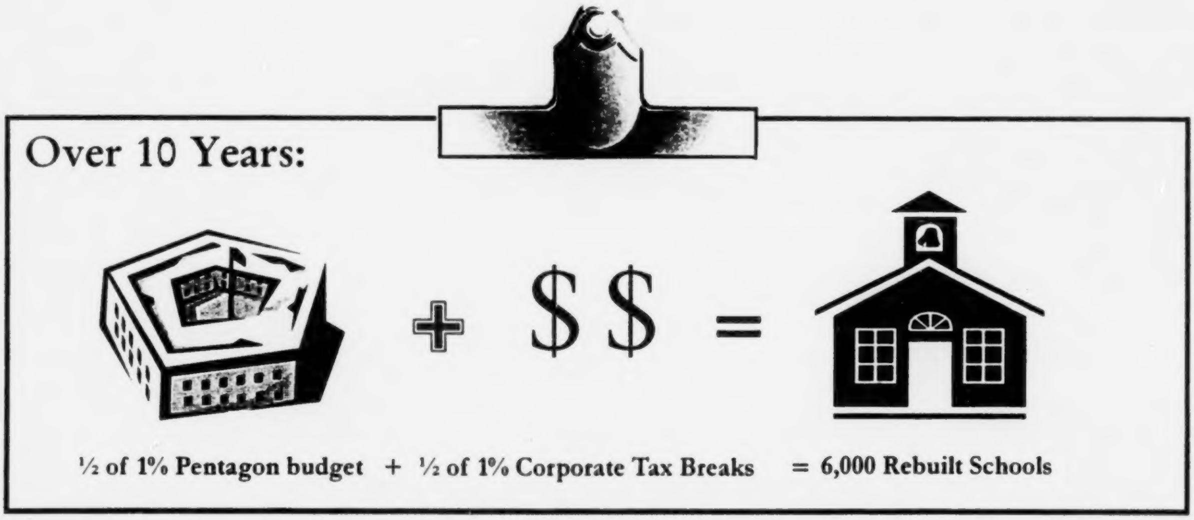
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# Grassroots Factbook

Volume 3 ◆ Series 2 ◆ April 2000

# Florida

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Florida and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

## Florida's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

31% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

57% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

## School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 606,000 children (a 33.9% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $5.5 billion to modernize existing public schools in Florida, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

## The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

## Many Florida Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+ $
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Florida includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Florida in 1997 was $294.07 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Florida

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Florida and its communities by $1.2 billion or 77%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

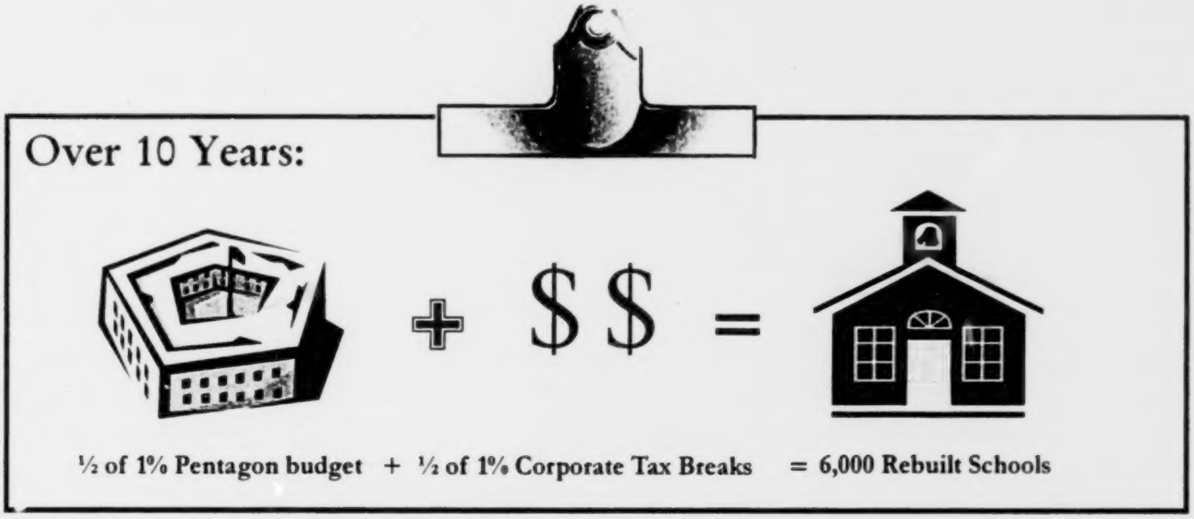
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 10.29% to 7.37%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Florida would be eligible for $1.4 billion in school construction bonds, which would generate 56,861 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Florida taxpayers would be $3.26.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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# Georgia

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Georgia and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Georgia's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

26% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

37% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 414,000 children (a 36.8% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $8.5 billion to modernize existing public schools in Georgia, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Georgia Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Georgia includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Georgia in 1997 was $203.95 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Georgia

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Georgia and its communities by $715.8 million or 81%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 13.09% to 6.84%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Georgia would be eligible for $612.8 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 25,738 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Georgia taxpayers would be $4.11.

## Redefining National Security

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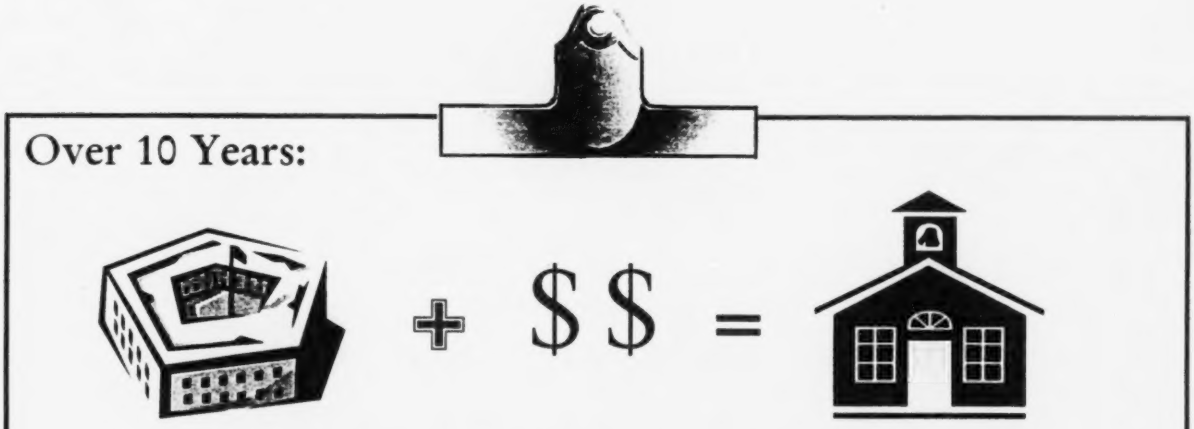

**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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Hawaii

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# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Hawaii and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Hawaii's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

21% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

57% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 58,000 children (a 33.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

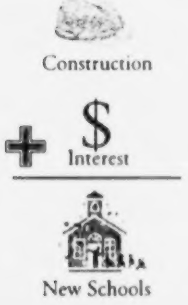
According to a study by the National Education Association:
It will cost $955.4 million to modernize existing public schools in Hawaii, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Hawaii Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



◆ The cost of a new high school in Hawaii includes $18.9 million in construction, and $14.2 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Hawaii in 1997 was $460.08 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Hawaii

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Hawaii and its communities by $157.3 million or 77%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 15.8% to 8.05%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Hawaii would be eligible for $49.9 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 2,094 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Hawaii taxpayers would be $4.80.

## Redefining National Security

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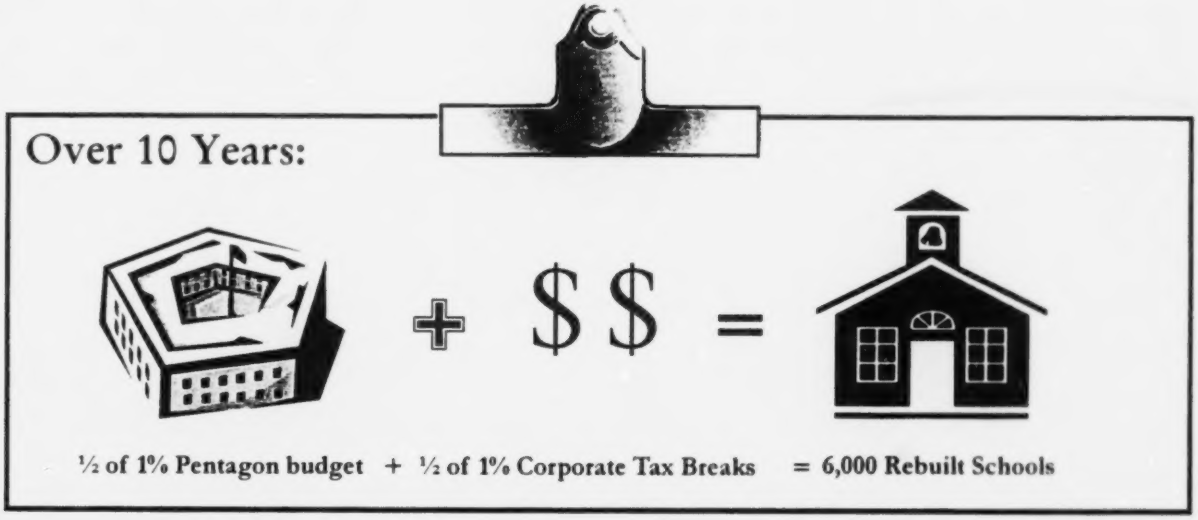
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# Idaho

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Idaho and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Idaho's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

32% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

56% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 82,000 children (a 38.1% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $967.8 million to modernize existing public schools in Idaho, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Idaho Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

◆ The cost of a new high school in Idaho includes $12.8 million in construction, and $9.6 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Idaho in 1997 was $213.63 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Idaho

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Idaho and its communities by $101.4 million or 73%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 10.26% to 6.68%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Idaho would be eligible for $56.8 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 2,387 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Idaho taxpayers would be $3.55.

## Redefining National Security

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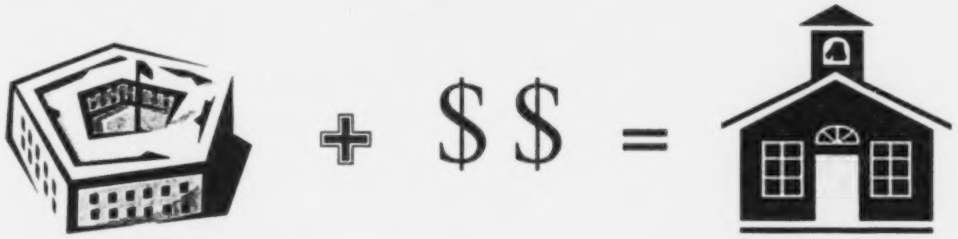
**Over 10 Years:**



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**Your Local Contact:**

**Grassroots Factbook**
Volume 3 • Series 2 • April 2000

# Illinois

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Illinois and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Illinois' Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

31% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

62% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 418,000 children (a 23.2% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $11.3 billion to modernize existing public schools in Illinois, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Illinois Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Illinois includes $23.4 million in construction, and $17.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Illinois in 1997 was $390.11 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

**Addressing Illinois' Crumbling Schools**

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Illinois

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Illinois and its communities by $2 billion or 86%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

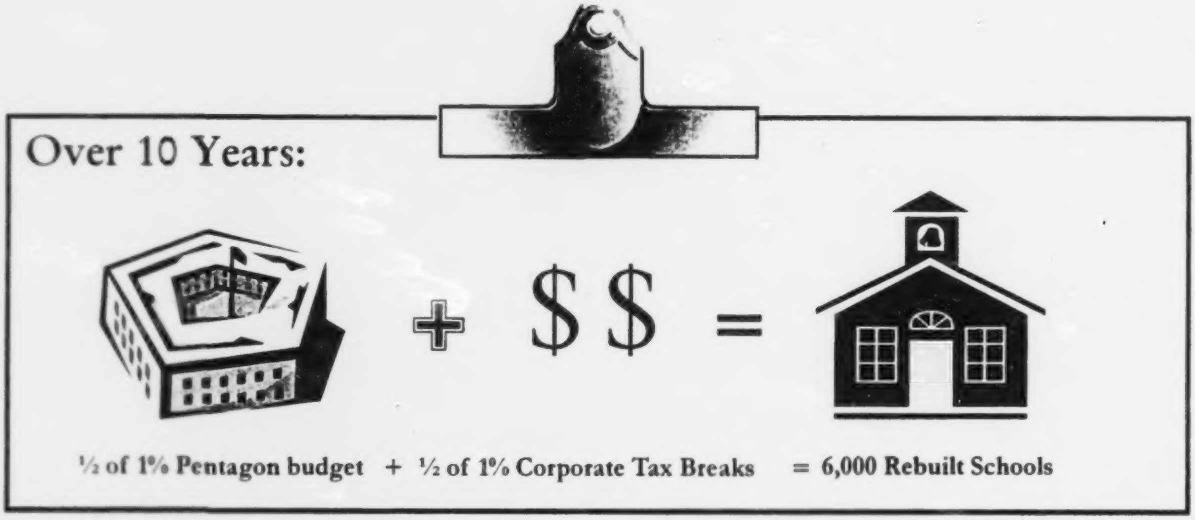
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 7.12% to 6.29%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Illinois would be eligible for $1.1 billion in school construction bonds, which would generate 47,097 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Illinois taxpayers would be $5.09.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $$ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Indiana

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# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Indiana and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Indiana's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

29% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

56% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 68,000 children (a 7.1% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

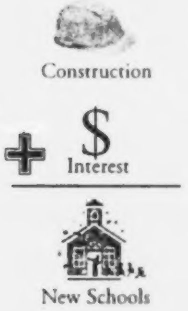
It will cost $3.5 billion to modernize existing public schools in Indiana, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Indiana Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Indiana includes $23.4 million in construction, and $17.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Indiana in 1997 was $506.19 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

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Volume 3 ◆ Series 2 ◆ April 2000

# Missouri

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Missouri and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Missouri's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

27% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

48% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 94,000 children (11.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $4.5 billion to modernize existing public schools in Missouri, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Missouri Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

◆ The cost of a new high school in Missouri includes $15.3 million in construction, and $11.5 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Missouri in 1997 was $290.81 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

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Iowa

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Iowa and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Iowa's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

19% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

50% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

Nationwide, school age population is expected to grow by 7,600,000 children (an 18.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

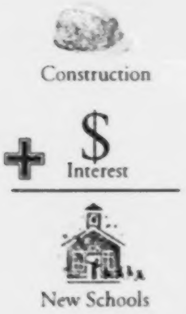
It will cost $3.9 billion to modernize existing public schools in Iowa, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Iowa Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Iowa includes $15.3 million in construction, and $11.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Iowa in 1997 was $185.75 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Iowa

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Iowa and its communities by $329 million or 79%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

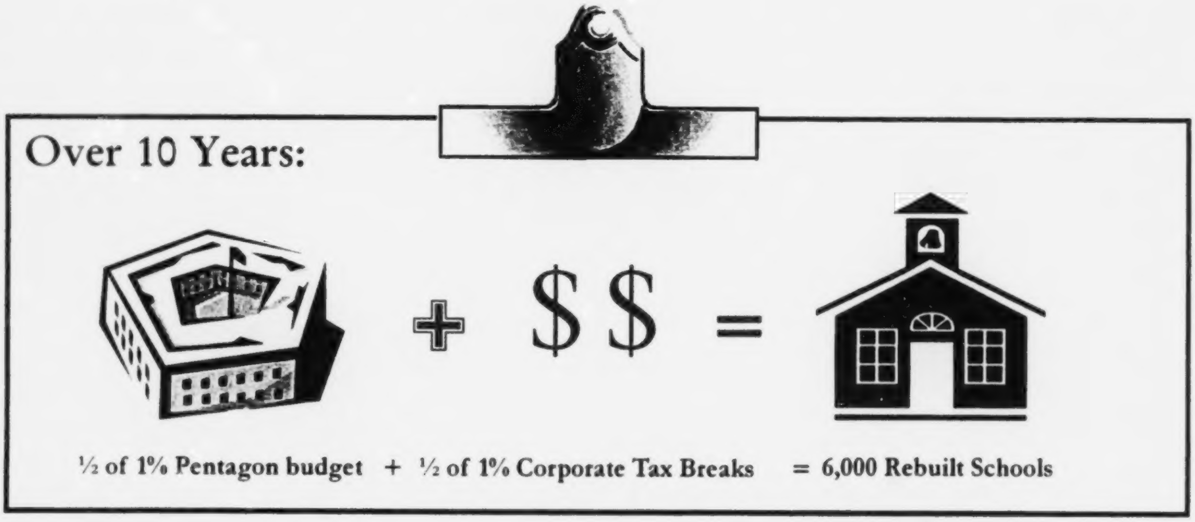
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 6.24% to 5.09%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Iowa would be eligible for $135.7 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 5,699 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Iowa taxpayers would be $3.63.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Kansas

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Kansas and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Kansas's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

38% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

55% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 33,000 children (a 7.6% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $2.3 billion to modernize existing public schools in Kansas, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Kansas Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+ $
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Kansas includes $15.3 million in construction, and $11.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Kansas in 1997 was $282.30 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Kansas

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Kansas and its communities by $249.5 million or 78%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

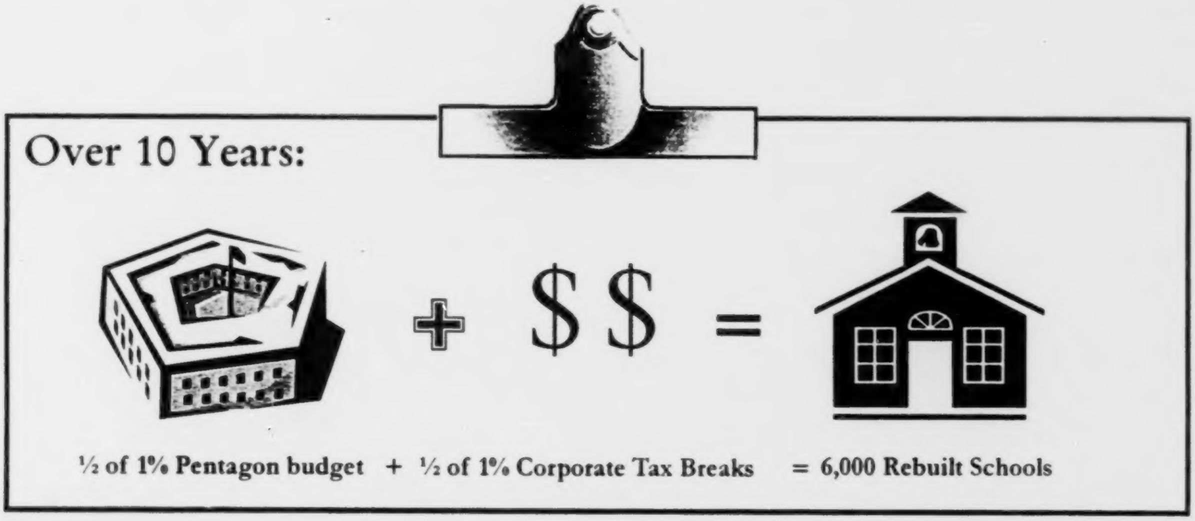
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 6.22% to 5.6%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Kansas would be eligible for $156 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 6,552 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Kansas taxpayers would be $3.88.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $$ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Kentucky

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Kentucky and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process.
Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own.
The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Kentucky's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

31% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

59% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 8,000 children (a 1.3% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $3.1 billion to modernize existing public schools in Kentucky, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Kentucky Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Kentucky includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Kentucky in 1997 was $205.89 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Kentucky

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Kentucky and its communities by $526.7 million or 81%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

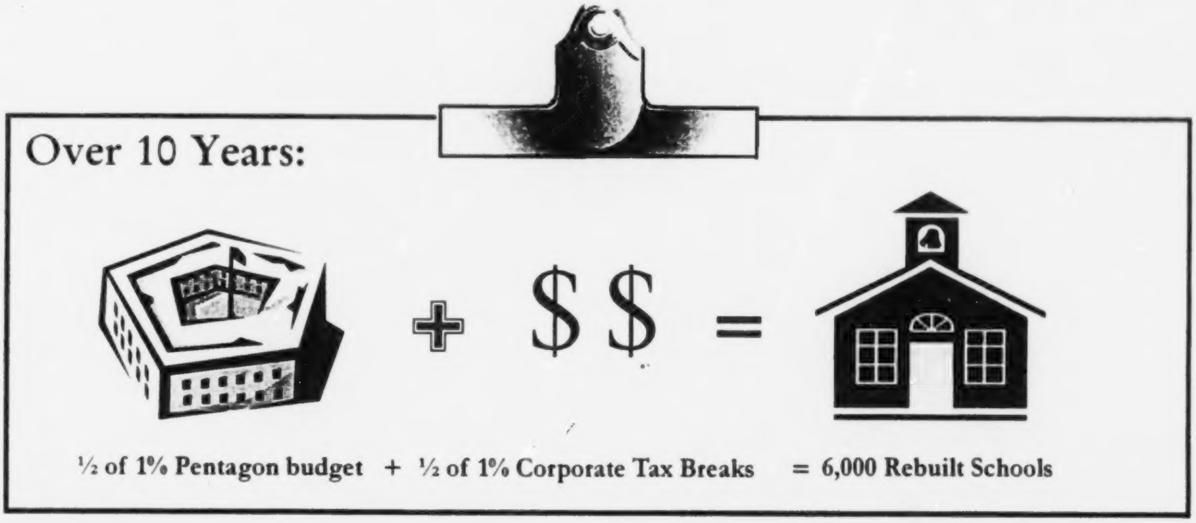
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 16.03% to 9.26%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Kentucky would be eligible for $344.9 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 14,486 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Kentucky taxpayers would be $3.51.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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# Louisiana

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## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Louisiana and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Louisiana's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

39% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

50% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

Nationwide, school age population is expected to grow by 7,600,000 children (an 18.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

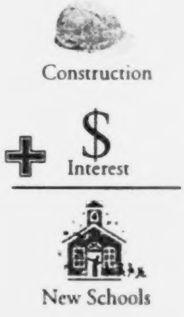
According to a study by the National Education Association: It will cost $3.9 billion to modernize existing public schools in Louisiana, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Louisiana Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Louisiana includes $12.3 million in construction, and $9.2 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Louisiana in 1997 was $247.78 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing Louisiana's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Louisiana

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Louisiana and its communities by $551.6 million or 77%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

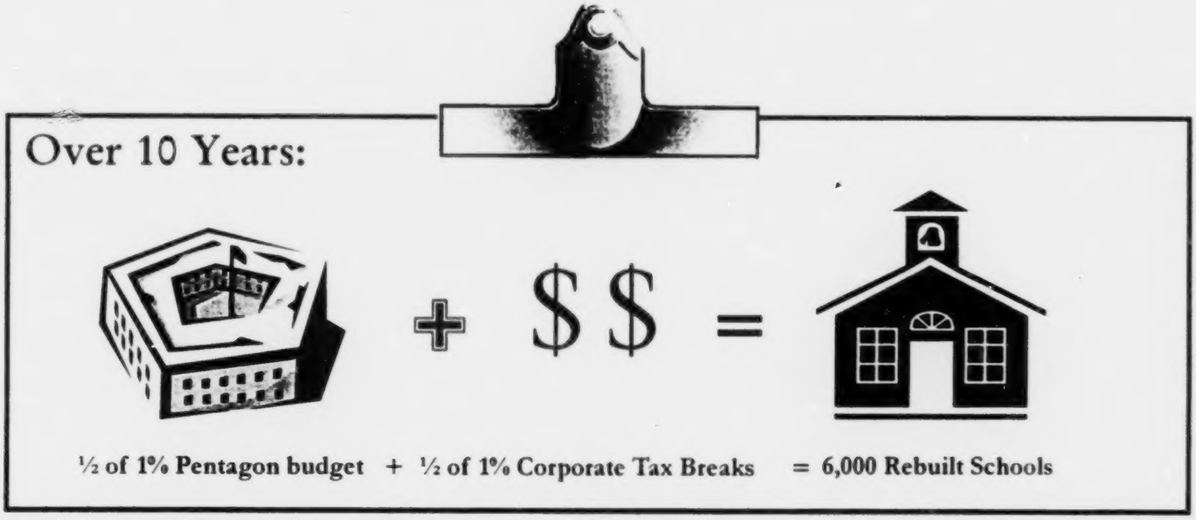
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 12.52% to 11.69%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Louisiana would be eligible for $595.4 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 25,005 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Louisiana taxpayers would be $3.01.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.



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# Maine

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## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Maine and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Maine's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

38% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

60% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

Nationwide, school age population is expected to grow by 7,600,000 children (an 18.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $684.8 million to modernize existing public schools in Maine, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Maine Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- ◆ The cost of a new high school in Maine includes $19.6 million in construction, and $14.7 million in interest payments.
- ◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Maine in 1997 was $373.72 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Maine

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Maine and its communities by $161.2 million or 73%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

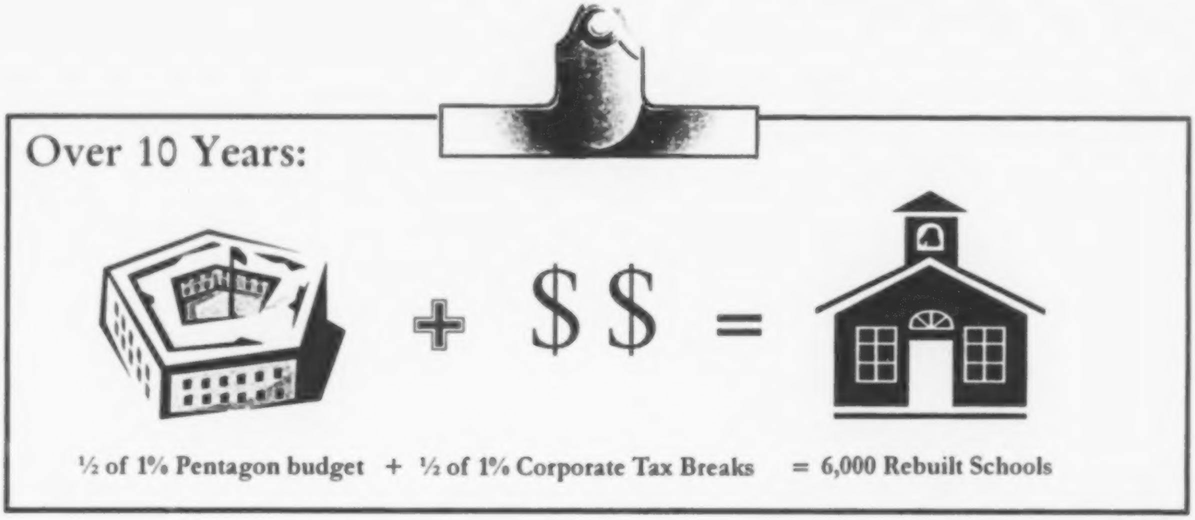
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 9.02% to 5.41%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Maine would be eligible for $77.6 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 3,258 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Maine taxpayers would be $3.37.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $$ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Grassroots Factbook

Volume 3 • Series 2 • April 2000

# Maryland

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Maryland and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Maryland's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

31% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

67% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 150,000 children (21.5% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

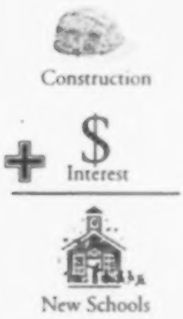
It will cost $4.8 billion to modernize existing public schools in Maryland, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Maryland Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Maryland includes $28.9 million in construction, and $21.7 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Maryland in 1997 was $173.32 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Maryland

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Maryland and its communities by $655.6 million or 78%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 8.23% to 5.17%.

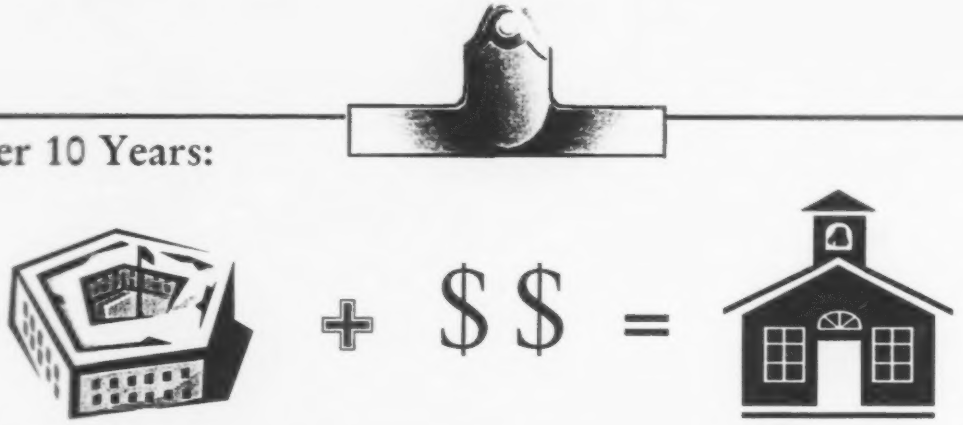
## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Maryland would be eligible for $351.8 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 14,775 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Maryland taxpayers would be $6.40.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.

Over 10 Years:



**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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# Massachusetts

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Massachusetts and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Massachusetts' Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

41% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

75% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 112,000 children (a 13.6% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

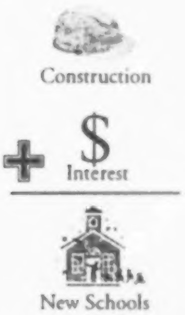
It will cost $9.9 billion to modernize existing public schools in Massachusetts, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Massachusetts Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



◆ The cost of a new high school in Massachusetts includes $19.6 million in construction, and $14.7 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Massachusetts in 1997 was $295.39 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

**Addressing Massachusetts' Crumbling Schools**

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Massachusetts

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Massachusetts and its communities by $971.6 million or 78%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

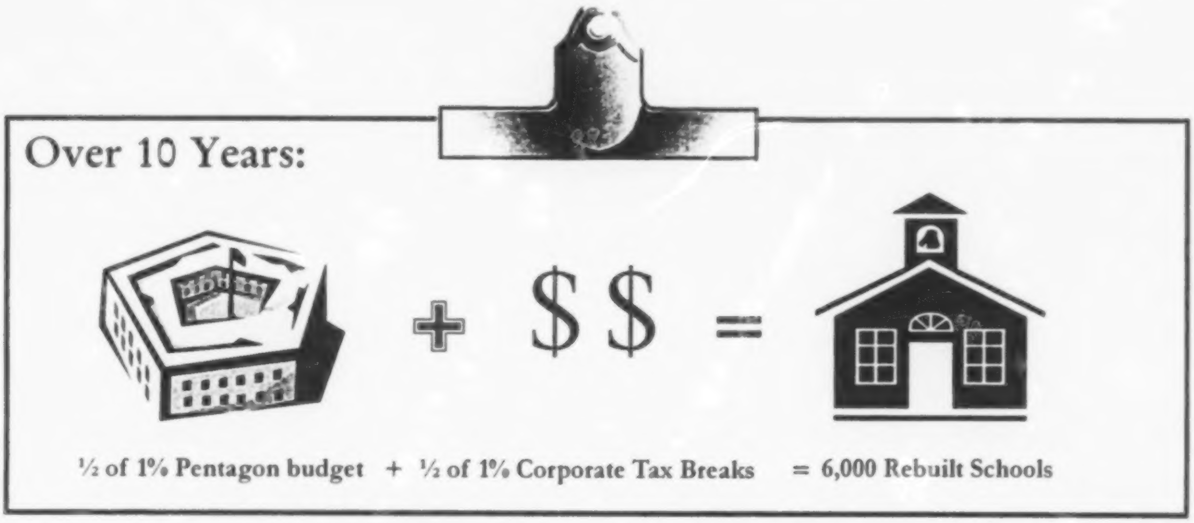
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 5.91% to 4.81%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Massachusetts would be eligible for $405.8 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 17,042 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Massachusetts taxpayers would be $5.08.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+
$ $
=
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Michigan

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Michigan and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process.
Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own.
The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Michigan's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

22% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

52% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 40,000 children (2.5% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:
It will cost $9.9 billion to modernize existing public schools in Michigan, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Michigan Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Michigan includes $23.4 million in construction, and $17.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Michigan in 1997 was $409.96 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing Michigan's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Michigan

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Michigan and its communities by $1.9 billion or 85%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

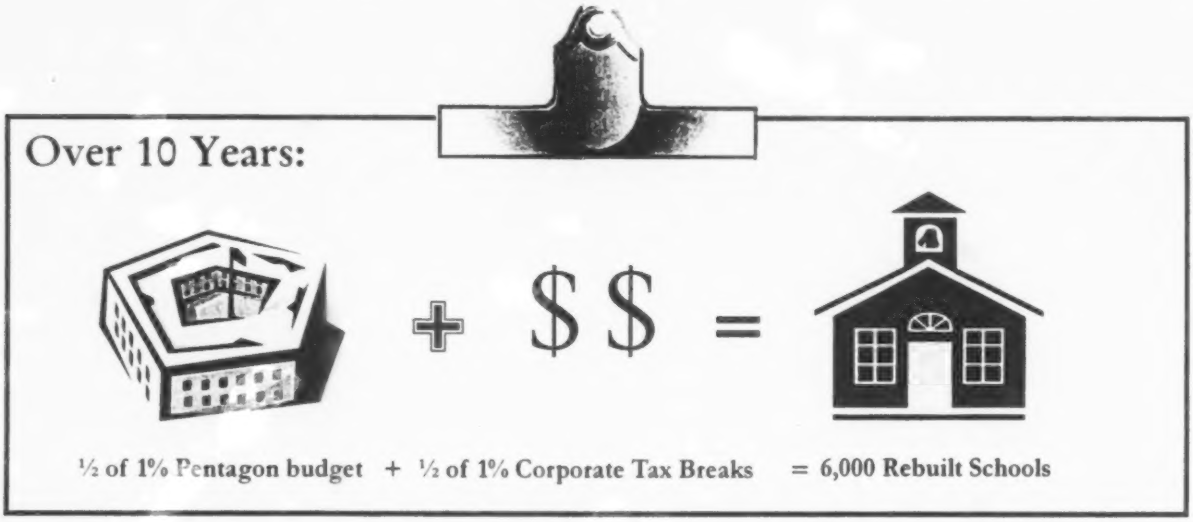
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 7.06% to 6.58%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Michigan would be eligible for $1 billion in school construction bonds, which would generate 42,128 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Michigan taxpayers would be $4.67.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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# Minnesota

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Minnesota and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Minnesota's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

38% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

57% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 89,000 children (12.1% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

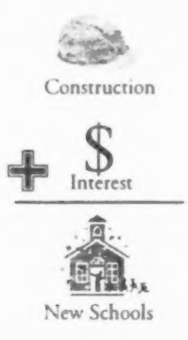
It will cost $5.4 billion to modernize existing public schools in Minnesota, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Minnesota Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- ◆ The cost of a new high school in Minnesota includes $23.4 million in construction, and $17.5 million in interest payments.
- ◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Minnesota in 1997 was $498.28 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Minnesota

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Minnesota and its communities by $564.3 million or 84%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

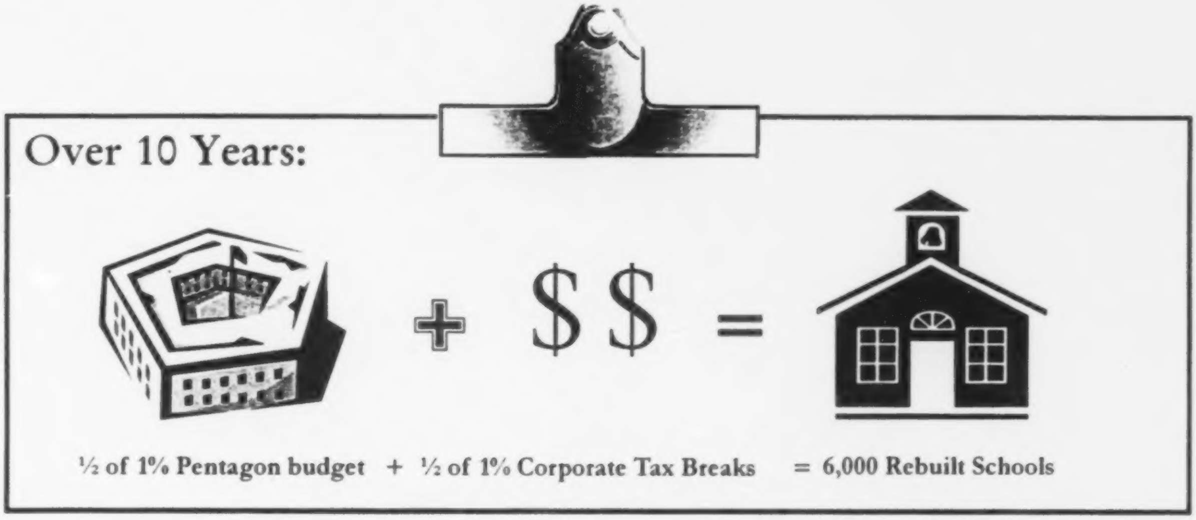
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 5.72% to 4.32%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Minnesota would be eligible for $265.3 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 11,143 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Minnesota taxpayers would be $5.73.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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# Mississippi

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Mississippi and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Mississippi's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

28% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

50% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 7,000 children (1.3% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association: It will cost $1.6 billion to modernize existing public schools in Mississippi, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Mississippi Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

◆ The cost of a new high school in Mississippi includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Mississippi in 1997 was $207.31 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Mississippi

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Mississippi and its communities by $388.6 million or 82%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 24.26% to 13.95%.

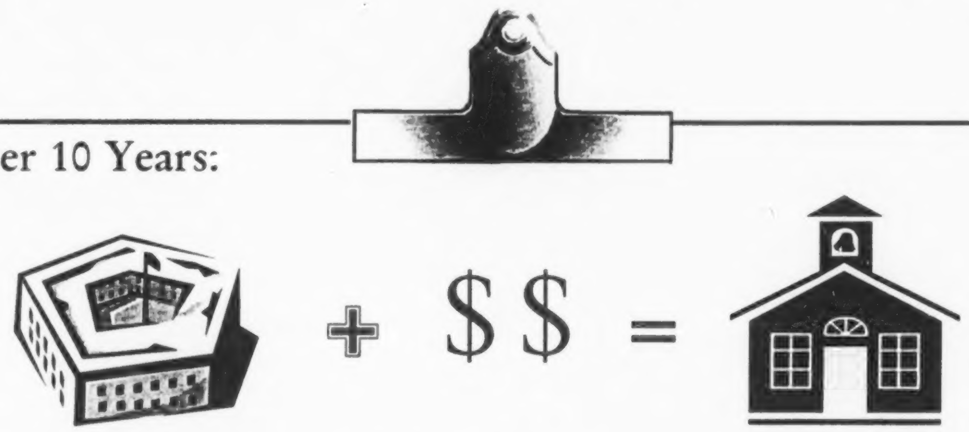
## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Mississippi would be eligible for $321.8 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 13,516 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Mississippi taxpayers would be $2.22.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.

### Over 10 Years:



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# Missouri

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Missouri and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process.
Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own.
The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Missouri's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

27% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

48% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 94,000 children (11.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $4.5 billion to modernize existing public schools in Missouri, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Missouri Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Missouri includes $15.3 million in construction, and $11.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Missouri in 1997 was $290.81 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

**Addressing Missouri's Crumbling Schools**

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Missouri

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Missouri and its communities by $666.7 million or 82%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

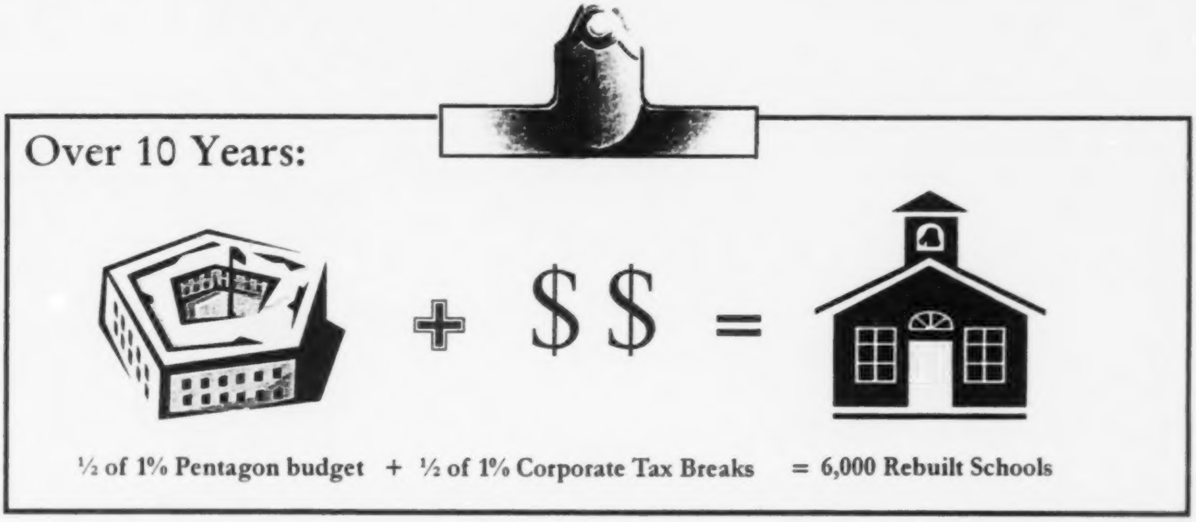
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 9.59% to 5.92%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Missouri would be eligible for $388.1 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 16,300 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Missouri taxpayers would be $4.26.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Montana

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Montana and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Montana's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

20% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

45% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 18,000 children (11.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

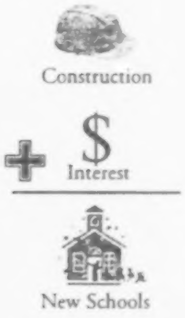
It will cost $1.1 billion to modernize existing public schools in Montana, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Montana Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- ◆ The cost of a new high school in Montana includes $11.8 million in construction, and $8.8 million in interest payments.
- ◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Montana in 1997 was $172.01 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Montana

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Montana and its communities by $92.4 million or 68%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

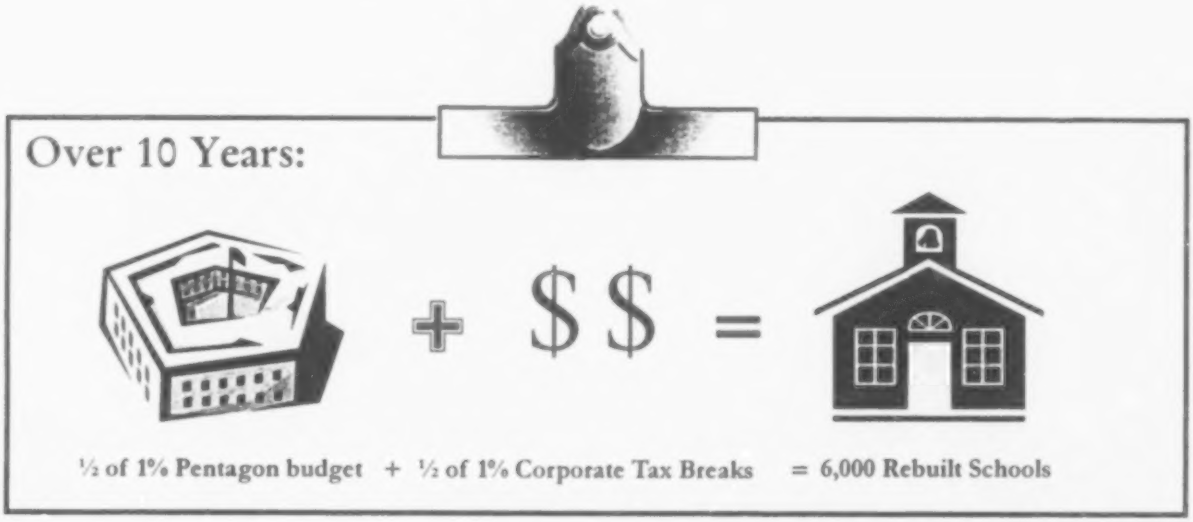
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 9.81% to 9.39%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Montana would be eligible for $63.9 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 2,683 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Montana taxpayers would be $2.56.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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# Nebraska

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Nebraska and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Nebraska's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

35% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

44% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation,

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 17,000 children (6.1% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

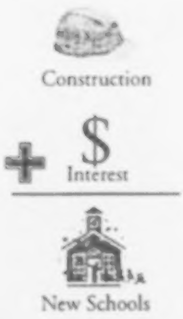
According to a study by the National Education Association: It will cost $1.9 billion to modernize existing public schools in Nebraska, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Nebraska Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Nebraska includes $15.3 million in construction, and $11.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Nebraska in 1997 was $250.48 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing Nebraska's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Nebraska

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Nebraska and its communities by $164.5 million or 77%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 8.69% to 5.97%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Nebraska would be eligible for $83.2 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 3,493 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Nebraska taxpayers would be $3.66.

## Redefining National Security

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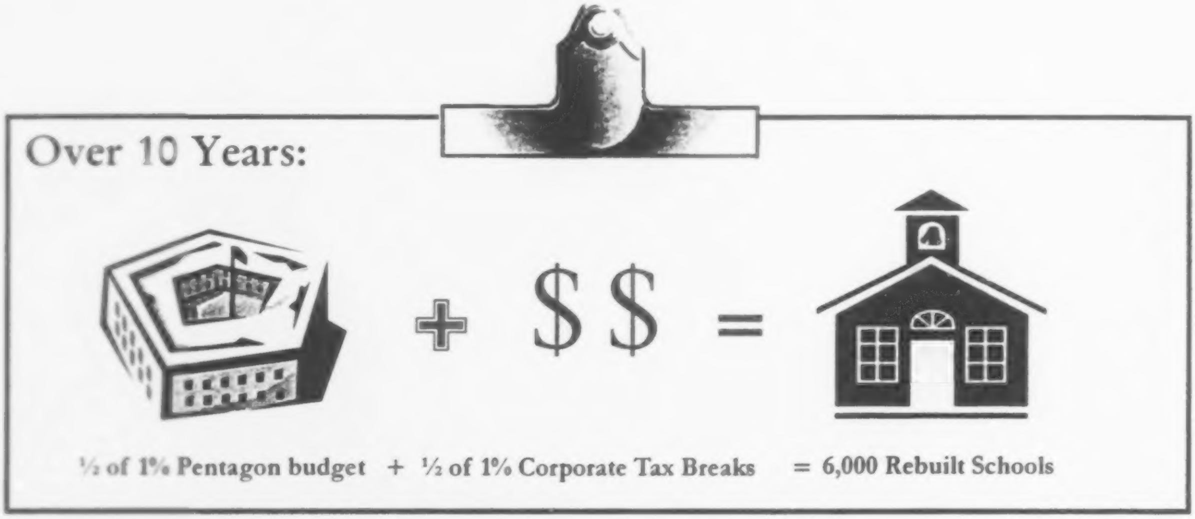
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New Hampshire

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# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In New Hampshire and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### New Hampshire's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

38% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

59% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 27,000 children (a 15.9% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

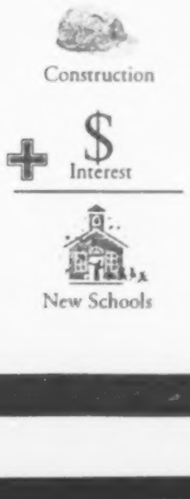
It will cost $620.3 million to modernize existing public schools in New Hampshire, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many New Hampshire Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in New Hampshire includes $19.6 million in construction, and $14.7 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in New Hampshire in 1997 was $332.55 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to New Hampshire

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to New Hampshire and its communities by $150.4 million or 77%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 5.28% to 3.46%.

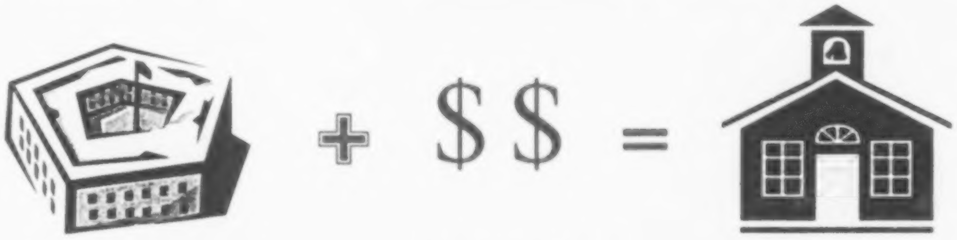
## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. New Hampshire would be eligible for $45.3 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 1,901 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to New Hampshire taxpayers would be $5.25.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.

### Over 10 Years:



**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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New Jersey

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In New Jersey and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process.
Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own.
The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### New Jersey's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

19% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

53% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 177,000 children (a 16.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $22 billion to modernize existing public schools in New Jersey, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many New Jersey Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in New Jersey includes $17.9 million in construction, and $13.4 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in New Jersey in 1997 was $296.90 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

**Addressing New Jersey's Crumbling Schools**

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to New Jersey

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to New Jersey and its communities by $1.3 billion or 84%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 6.06% to 3.51%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. New Jersey would be eligible for $528.3 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 22,188 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to New Jersey taxpayers would be $6.52.

## Redefining National Security

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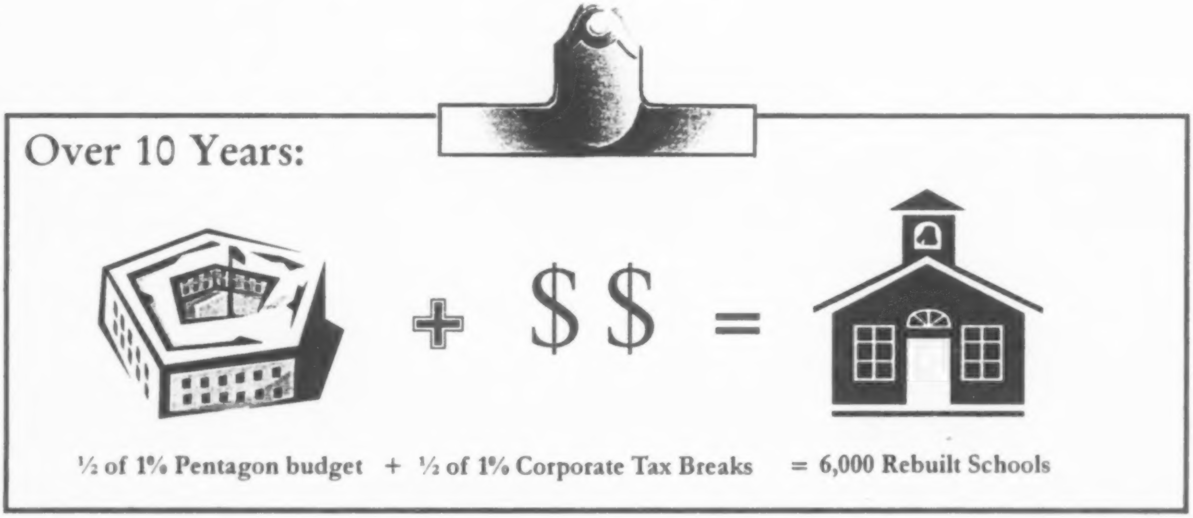
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New Mexico

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# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In New Mexico and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### New Mexico's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

30% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

69% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 94,000 children (31.8% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

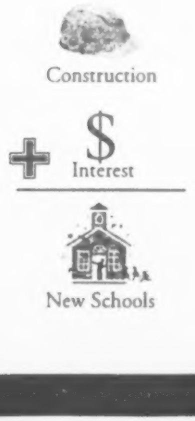
It will cost $1.8 billion to modernize existing public schools in New Mexico, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many New Mexico Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in New Mexico includes $12.3 million in construction, and $9.2 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in New Mexico in 1997 was $277.22 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to New Mexico

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to New Mexico and its communities by $144.3 million or 68%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 14.57% to 12.67%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. New Mexico would be eligible for $187.7 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 7,881 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to New Mexico taxpayers would be $2.65.

## Redefining National Security

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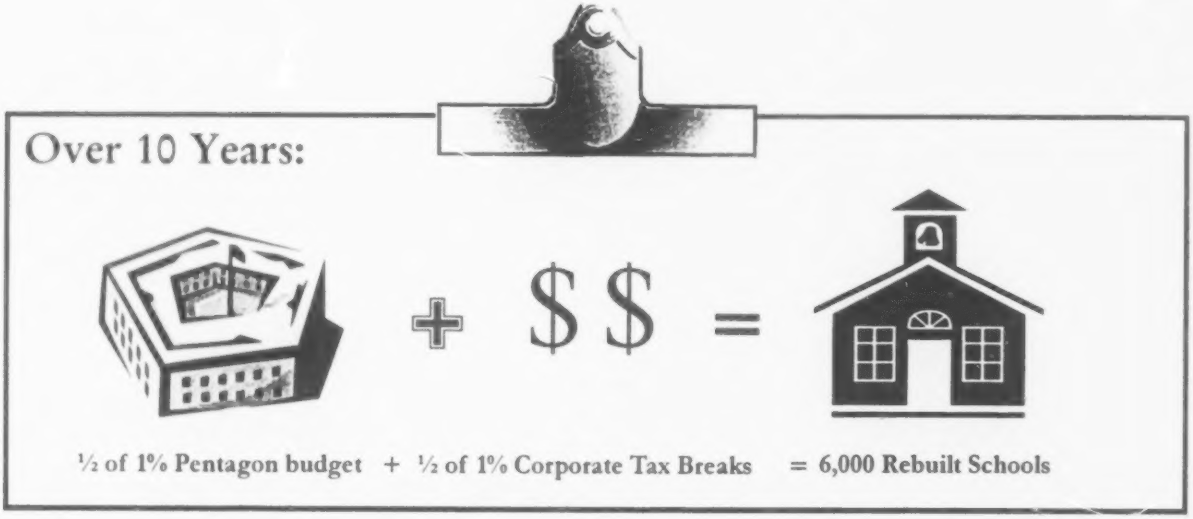
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Nevada

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# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Nevada and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process.
Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own.
The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Nevada's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

23% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

42% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 196,000 children (104.8% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $5.6 billion to modernize existing public schools in Nevada, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Nevada Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Nevada includes $18.9 million in construction, and $14.2 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Nevada in 1997 was $520.87 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Nevada

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Nevada and its communities by $77 million or 63%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 7.09% to 4.16%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Nevada would be eligible for $89 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 3,738 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Nevada taxpayers would be $4.47.

## Redefining National Security

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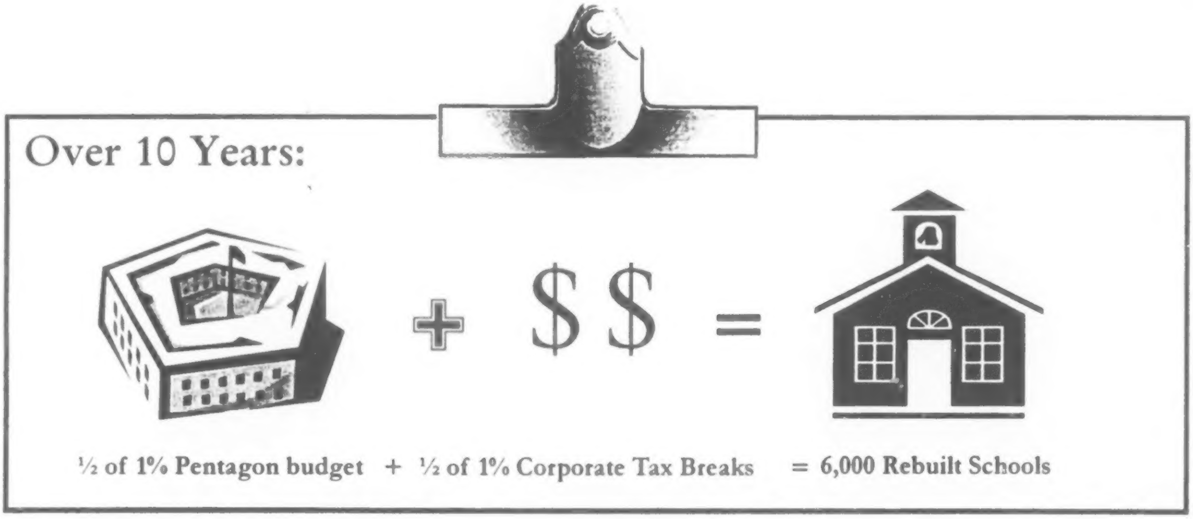
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Your Local Contact:

Grassroots Factbook
Volume 3 ◆ Series 2 ◆ April 2000

New York

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In New York and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### New York's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

33% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

67% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 294,000 children (a 11.5% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $50.7 billion to modernize existing public schools in New York, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many New York Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

◆ The cost of a new high school in New York includes $17.9 million in construction, and $13.4 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in New York in 1997 was $405.66 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to New York

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to New York and its communities by $3.7 billion or 84%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

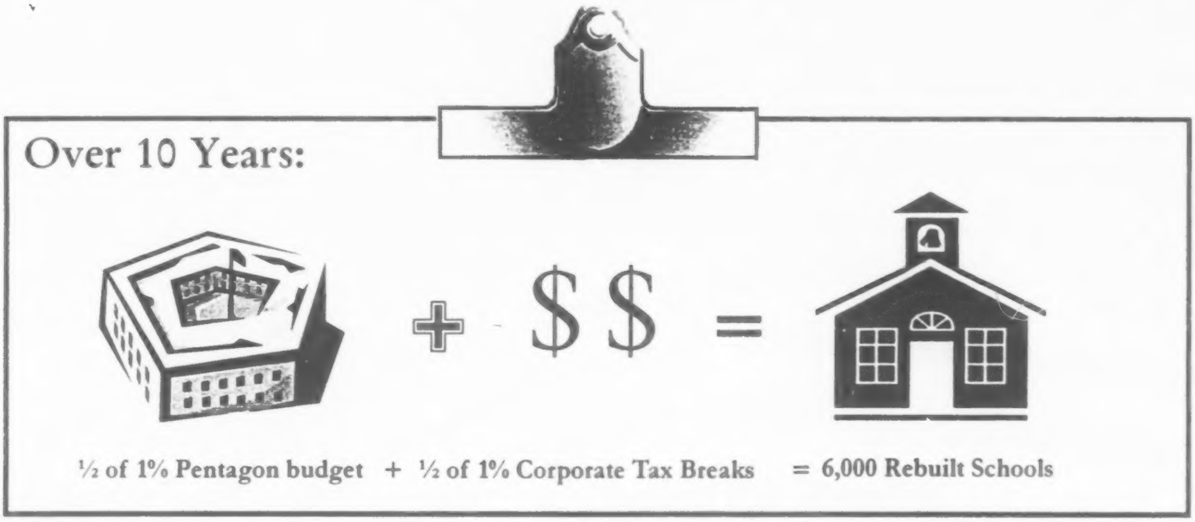
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 7.06% to 5.45%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. New York would be eligible for $2.8 billion in school construction bonds, which would generate 115,389 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to New York taxpayers would be $3.88.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+
$ $
=
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Volume 3 ◆ Series 2 ◆ April 2000

# North Carolina

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In North Carolina and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### North Carolina's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

36% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

55% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 273,000 children (25.2% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

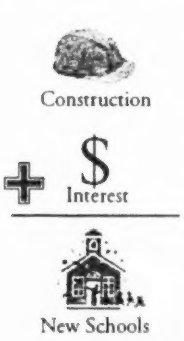
According to a study by the National Education Association: It will cost $7.5 billion to modernize existing public schools in North Carolina, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many North Carolina Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in North Carolina includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in North Carolina in 1997 was $301.37 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing North Carolina's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to North Carolina

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to North Carolina and its communities by $696.4 million or 79%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

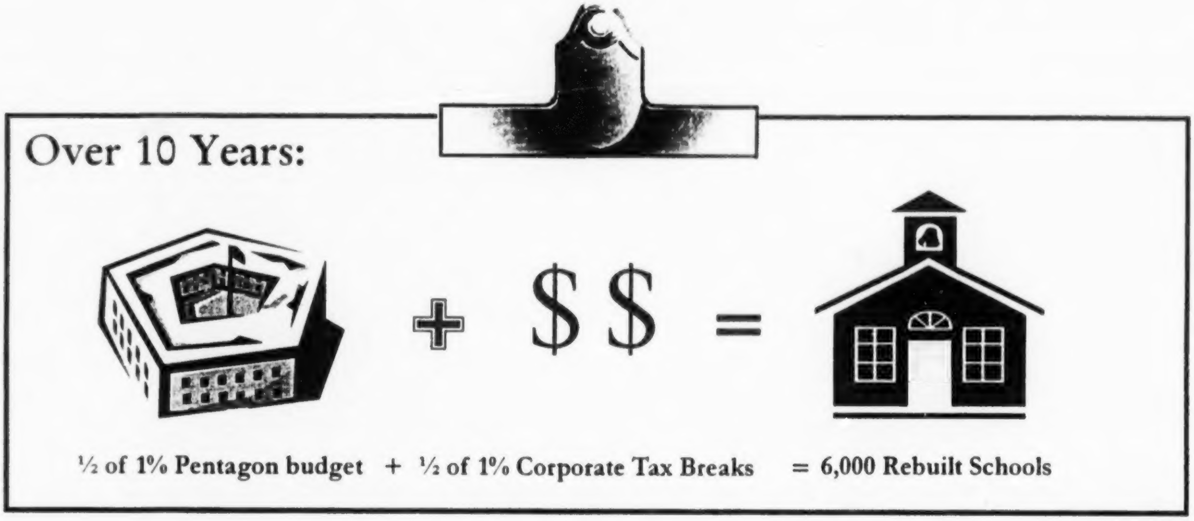
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 14.35% to 7.23%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. North Carolina would be eligible for $396.4 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 16,647 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to North Carolina taxpayers would be $3.72.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Grassroots Factbook

Volume 3 • Series 2 • April 2000

# North Dakota

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In North Dakota and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### North Dakota's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal **Government Accounting Office:**

23% of our elementary, **secondary and high schools** need total replacement **or extensive repair.**

49% of our schools need **extensive repair of at least** one major building **feature, such as a roof or foundation.**

Although communities **nationwide have doubled what they** spent in 1990 on school **construction, it is not meeting the** need. If we continue to **modernize schools at this rate, it will** take 50 years just to fix up **all the schools that were deemed in** bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**Nationwide,** school **age population** is expected to grow by **7,600,000** children **(an 18.7% increase)** between 1989 and **2009, resulting in overcrowding** in many schools.

**According** to a study by the National Education Association:

**It will cost $545.2 million** to modernize existing public **schools in North Dakota, build** schools to meet rising **enrollments, equip schools with** modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many North Dakota Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in North Dakota includes $11.8 million in construction, and $8.8 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in North Dakota in 1997 was $153.76 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to North Dakota

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to North Dakota and its communities by $67.9 million or 66%.

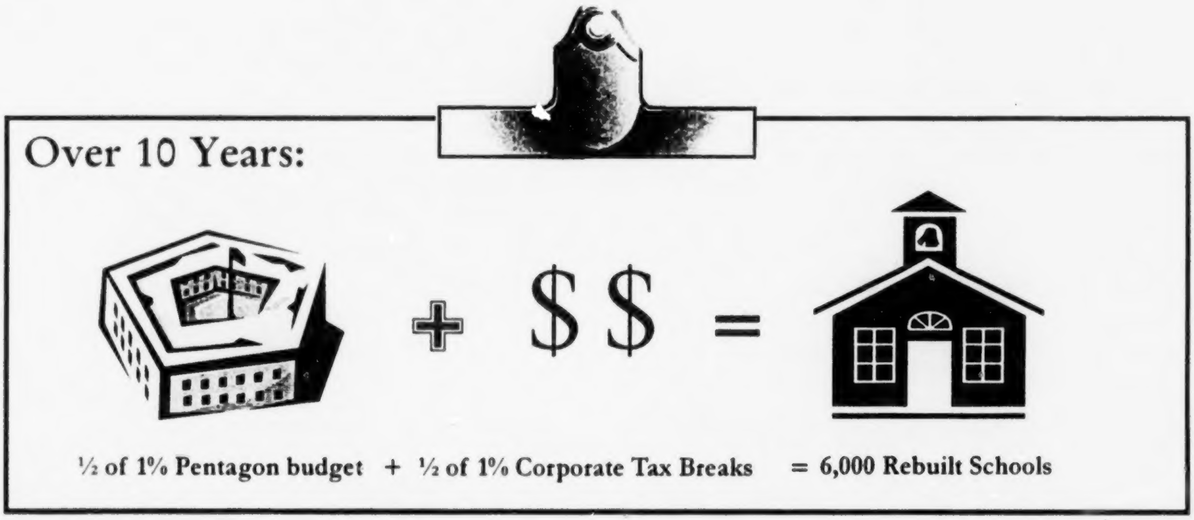
Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. North Dakota would be eligible for $46.9 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 1,971 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to North Dakota taxpayers would be $2.68.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Ohio

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Ohio and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Ohio's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

38% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

76% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

Nationwide, the school age population is expected to grow by 7,600,000 children (an 18.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

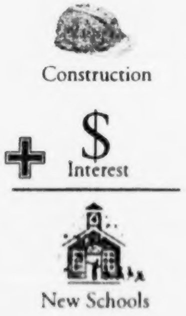
It will cost $10.6 billion to modernize existing public schools in Ohio, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Ohio Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Ohio includes $23.4 million in construction, and $17.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Ohio in 1997 was $546.95 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Ohio

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Ohio and its communities by $1.6 billion or 83%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

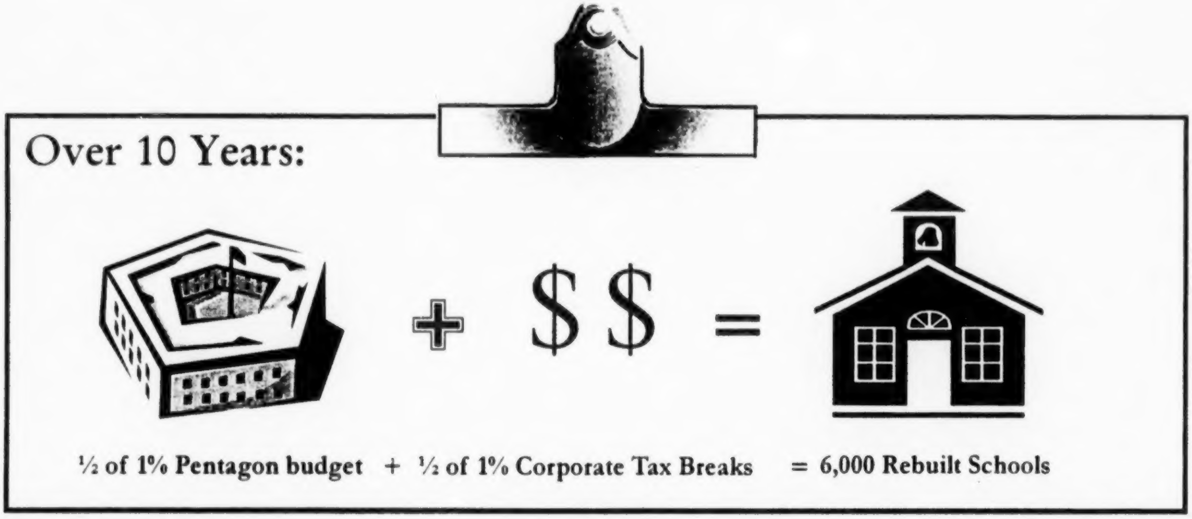
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 8.03% to 6.1%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Ohio would be eligible for $947.3 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 39,785 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Ohio taxpayers would be $4.08.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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# Oklahoma

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Oklahoma and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

## Oklahoma's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

30% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

54% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

## School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 8,000 children (1.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association: It will cost $2.9 billion to modernize existing public schools in Oklahoma, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

## The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

## Many Oklahoma Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

◆ The cost of a new high school in Oklahoma includes $12.3 million in construction, and $9.2 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Oklahoma in 1997 was $195.19 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing Oklahoma's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Oklahoma

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Oklahoma and its communities by $327 million or 74%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 11.84% to 8.26%.

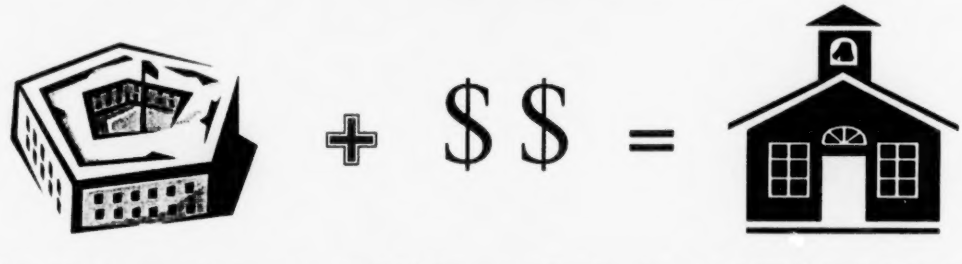
## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Oklahoma would be eligible for $273.8 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 11,498 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Oklahoma taxpayers would be $3.01.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.

Over 10 Years:



**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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# Oregon

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Oregon and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

## Oregon's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

39% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

63% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

## School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**School age population is projected** to grow by 95,000 **children (20% increase) between** 1989 and 2009, resulting **in overcrowding in** many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

**It will cost $3 billion to modernize** existing public schools in **Oregon, build schools to meet rising** enrollments, equip **schools with modern technology** and fund professional development for teachers.

## The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

## Many Oregon Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Oregon includes $12.8 million in construction, and $9.6 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Oregon in 1997 was $390.79 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Oregon

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Oregon and its communities by $360 million or 76%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 8.8% to 6.22%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Oregon would be eligible for $191.3 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 8,033 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Oregon taxpayers would be $4.22.

## Redefining National Security

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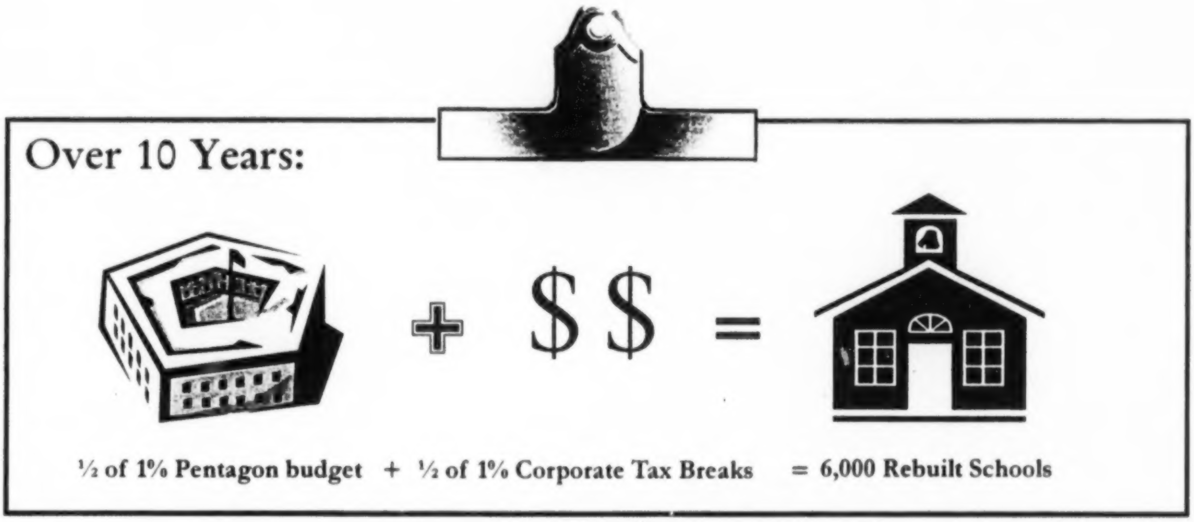
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Pennsylvania

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# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Pennsylvania and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Pennsylvania's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

21% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

42% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 98,000 children (5.9% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

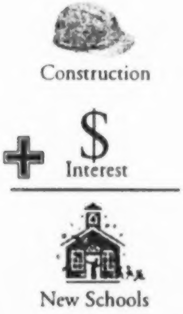
It will cost $10.4 billion to modernize existing public schools in Pennsylvania, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Pennsylvania Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



◆ The cost of a new high school in Pennsylvania includes $28.9 million in construction, and $21.7 million in interest payments.

◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Pennsylvania in 1997 was $880.33 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing Pennsylvania's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Pennsylvania

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Pennsylvania and its communities by $1.9 billion or 84%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

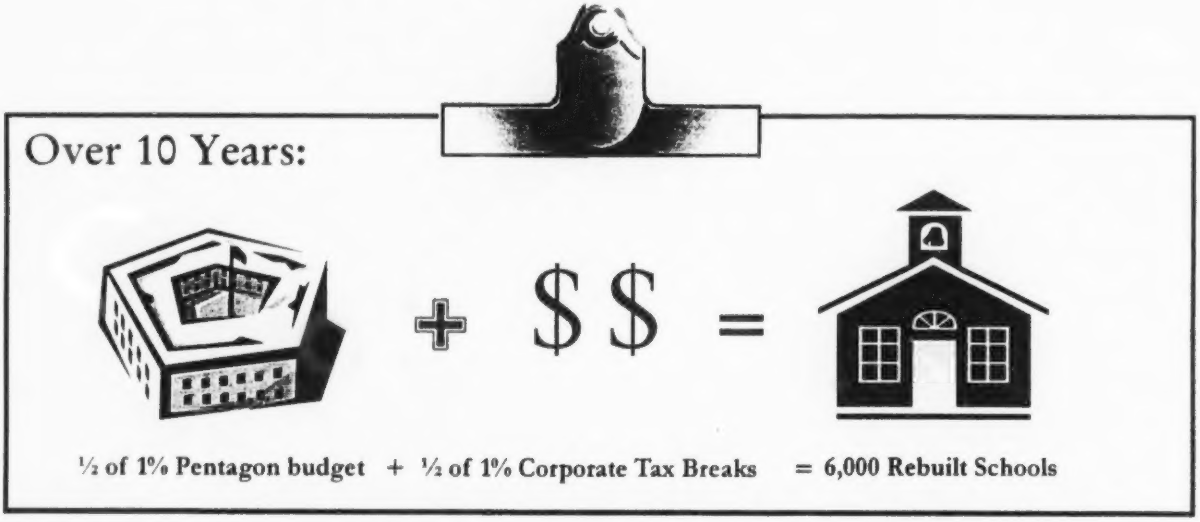
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 8.89% to 5.46%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Pennsylvania would be eligible for $1 billion in school construction bonds, which would generate 42,559 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Pennsylvania taxpayers would be $4.24.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Rhode Island

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Rhode Island and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Rhode Island's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

29% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

61% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 9,000 children (6.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

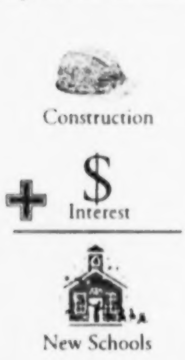
It will cost $1.6 billion to modernize existing public schools in Rhode Island, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Rhode Island Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Rhode Island includes $19.6 million in construction, and $14.7 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Rhode Island in 1997 was $251.58 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing Rhode Island's Crumbling Schools

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# Wyoming

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Wyoming and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Wyoming's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

24% of our elementary, **secondary and high schools** need total replacement **or extensive repair.**

49% of our schools need **extensive repair of at least** one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**School age population** is projected to grow by 3,000 children (3.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

**It will cost $634.4 million to modernize** existing public **schools in Wyoming, build schools** to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Wyoming Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- ◆ The cost of a new high school in Wyoming includes $11.8 million in construction, and $8.8 million in interest payments.
- ◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Wyoming in 1997 was $440.49 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

**Addressing Wyoming's Crumbling Schools**

# Grassroots Factbook

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# South Carolina

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In South Carolina and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### South Carolina's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

37% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

52% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 5,000 children (0.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $3.3 billion to modernize existing public schools in South Carolina, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many South Carolina Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in South Carolina includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in South Carolina in 1997 was $414.35 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing South Carolina's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to South Carolina

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to South Carolina and its communities by $423.3 million or 82%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

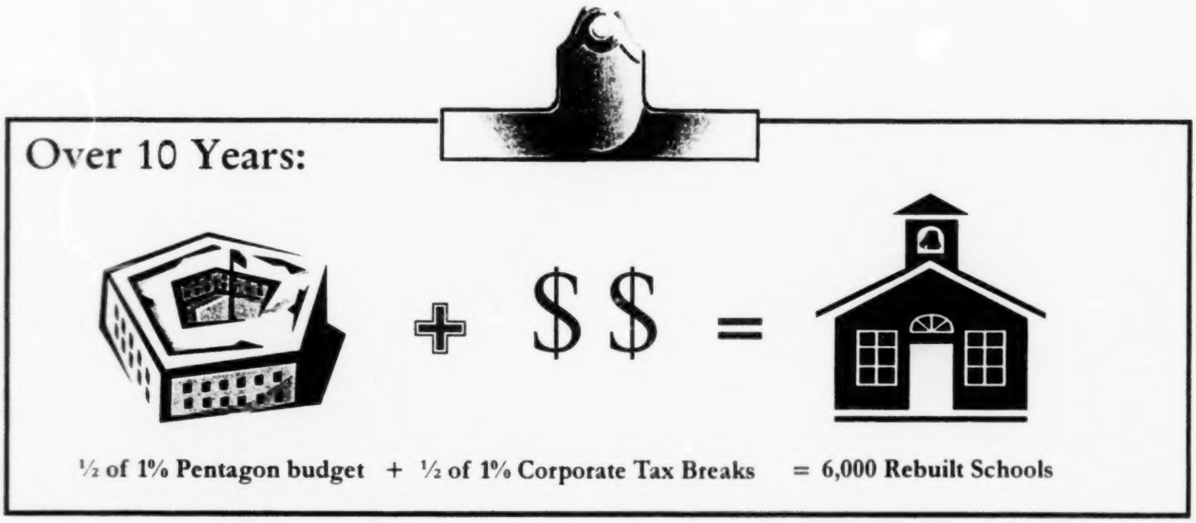
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 11.24% to 8.43%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. South Carolina would be eligible for $261.1 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 10,967 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to South Carolina taxpayers would be $3.28.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.



**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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# South Dakota

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## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In South Dakota and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### South Dakota's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

21% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

45% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 17,000 children (13.2% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $650.2 million to modernize existing public schools in South Dakota, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many South Dakota Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+ $
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in South Dakota includes $11.8 million in construction, and $8.8 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in South Dakota in 1997 was $167.68 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to South Dakota

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to South Dakota and its communities by $88.9 million or 72%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

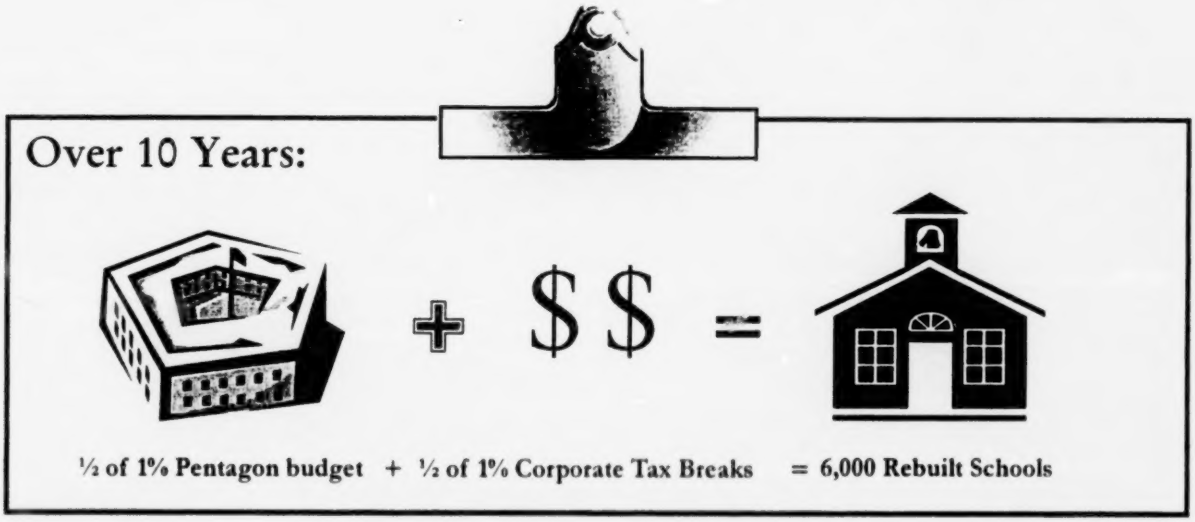
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 13.02% to 9.74%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. South Dakota would be eligible for $48.1 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 2,020 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to South Dakota taxpayers would be $2.74.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Tennessee

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Tennessee and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process.
Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own.
The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Tennessee's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

27% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

56% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 166,000 children (20.3% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $3.2 billion to modernize existing public schools in Tennessee, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Tennessee Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Tennessee includes $8.7 million in construction, and $6.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Tennessee in 1997 was $259.67 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Tennessee

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Tennessee and its communities by $637 million or 83%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

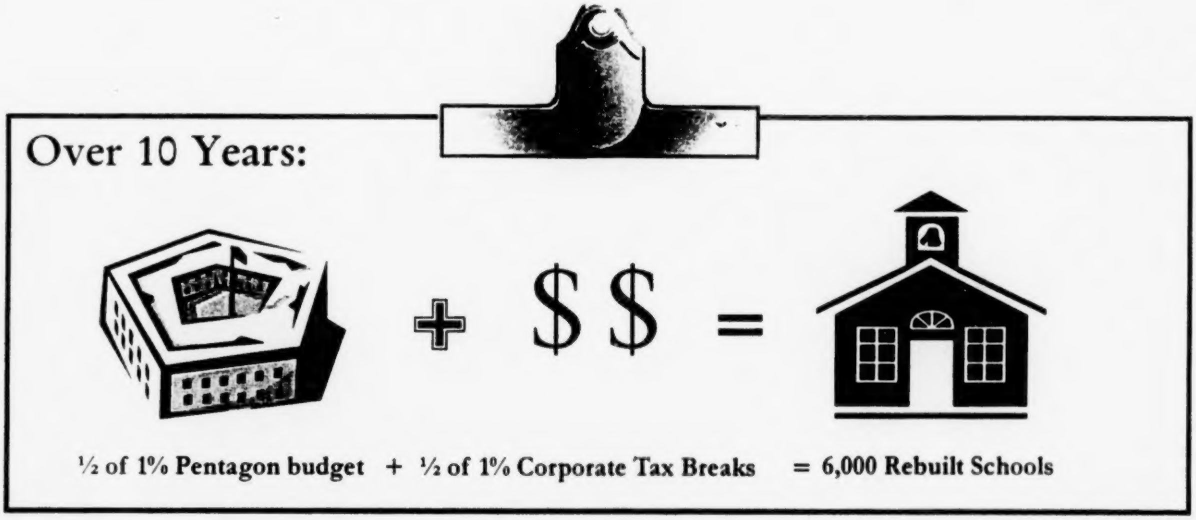
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 15.64% to 8.53%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Tennessee would be eligible for $396.5 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 16,651 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Tennessee taxpayers would be $2.98.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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Texas

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Texas and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Texas's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

27% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

46% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 1,023,000 children (30.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $13.7 billion to modernize existing public schools in Texas, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Texas Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Texas includes $12.3 million in construction, and $9.2 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Texas in 1997 was $385.92 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Texas

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Texas and its communities by $1.2 billion or 67%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

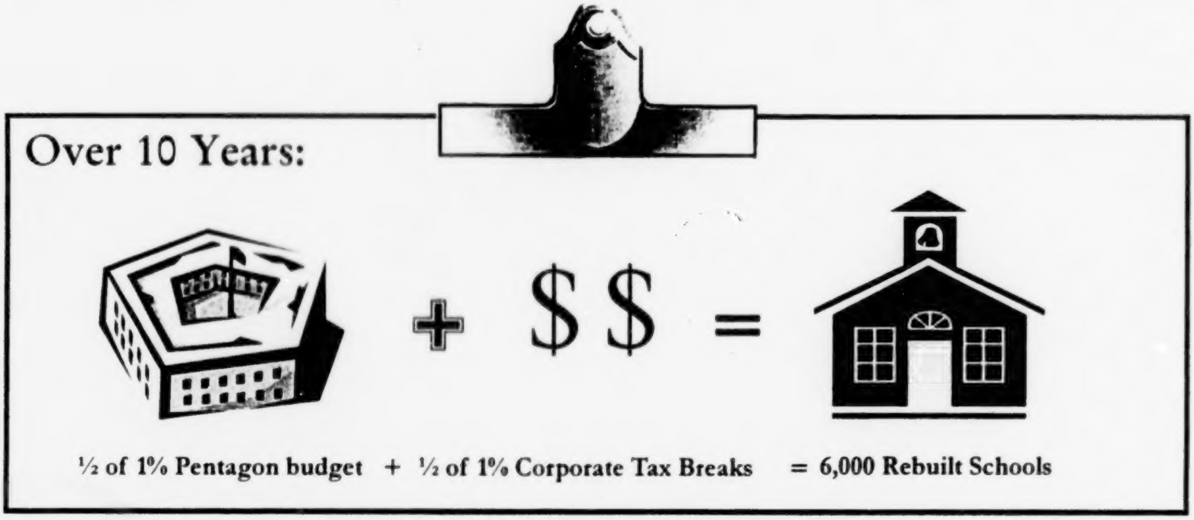
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 11.09% to 7.68%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Texas would be eligible for $2.1 billion in school construction bonds, which would generate 87,106 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Texas taxpayers would be $3.64.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+ $ $ =
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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# Utah

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Utah and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Utah's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

34% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

62% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 95,000 children (21.9% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $9 billion to modernize existing public schools in Utah, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Utah Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Utah includes $11.8 million in construction, and $8.8 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Utah in 1997 was $266.14 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Utah

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Utah and its communities by $128.7 million or 70%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

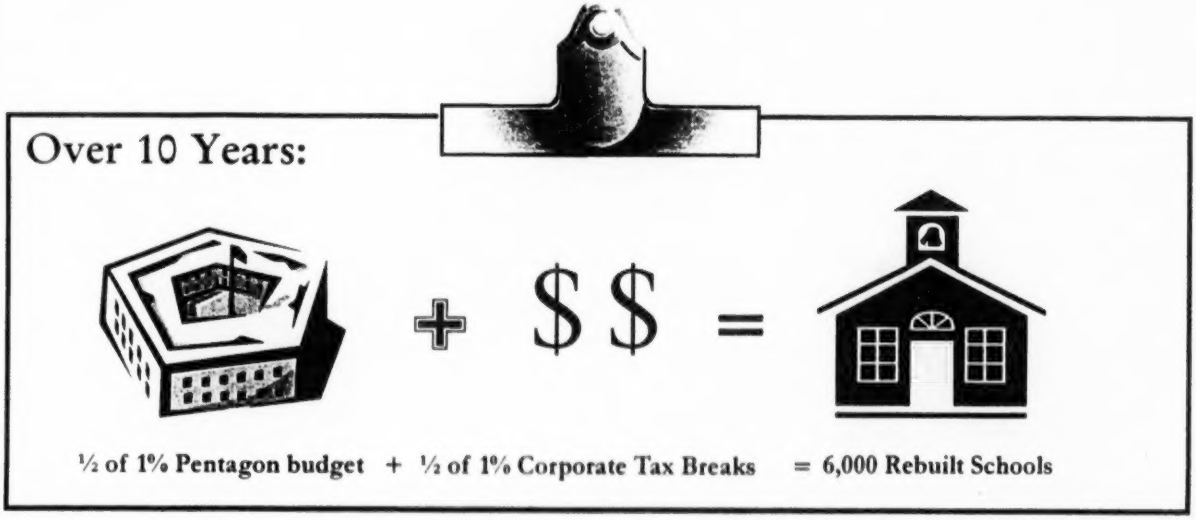
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 8.06% to 6.28%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Utah would be eligible for $85.1 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 3,574 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Utah taxpayers would be $5.37.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.


Over 10 Years:
+
$ $
=
½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Vermont

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Vermont and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Vermont's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

21% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

53% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 5,000 children (5.9% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $333.4 million to modernize existing public schools in Vermont, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Vermont Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- ◆ The cost of a new high school in Vermont includes $19.6 million in construction, and $14.7 million in interest payments.
- ◆ In fact, the average cost for debt service in Vermont in 1997 was $289.69 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

Addressing Vermont's Crumbling Schools

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Vermont

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Vermont and its communities by $74.8 million or 71%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

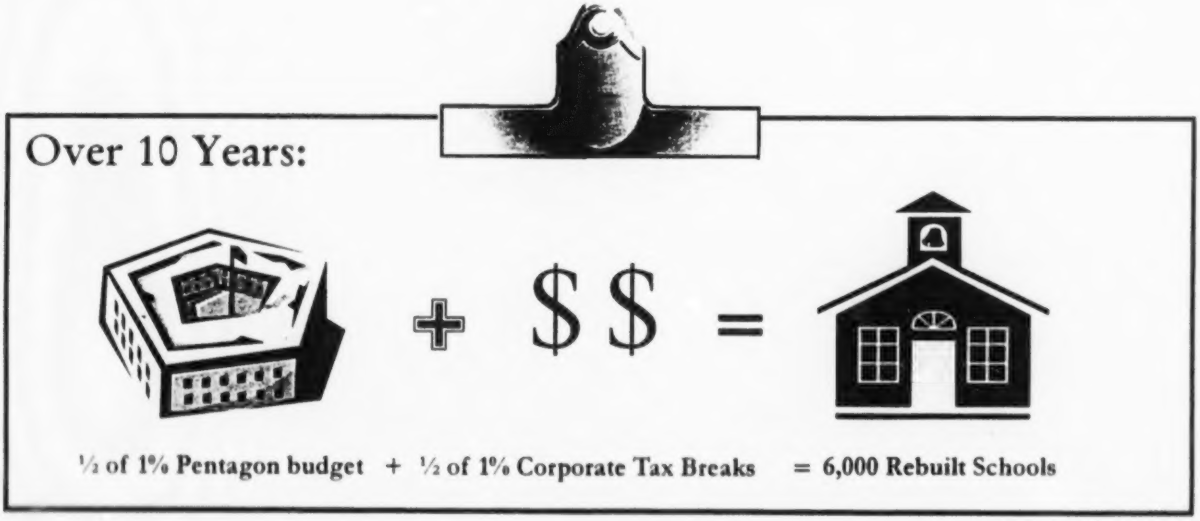
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 7.44% to 4.64%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Vermont would be eligible for $44 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 1,848 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Vermont taxpayers would be $4.01.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.



Over 10 Years:

½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Virginia

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Virginia and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

## Virginia's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal **Government Accounting Office:**

27% of our elementary, **secondary and high schools** need total replacement **or extensive repair.**

60% of our schools **need extensive repair of at least** one major building **feature, such as a roof or foundation.**

Although communities **nationwide have doubled what they** spent in 1990 on **school construction, it is not meeting the** need. If we continue to **modernize schools at this rate, it will** take 50 years just to **fix up all the schools that were deemed in** bad shape in 1996.

## School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**School age population is projected** to grow by 165,000 **children (16.8% increase) between** 1989 and 2009, **resulting in overcrowding in** many schools.

**According to a study by the National** Education Association:

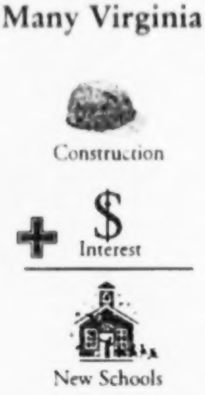
**It will cost $6.9 billion to modernize** existing public schools **in Virginia, build schools to meet** rising enrollments, equip **schools with modern technology** and fund professional **development for teachers.**

## The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

## Many Virginia Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Virginia includes $28.9 million in construction, and $21.7 million in interest payments.

- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Virginia in 1997 was $379.32 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Virginia

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Virginia and its communities by $634.8 million or 77%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

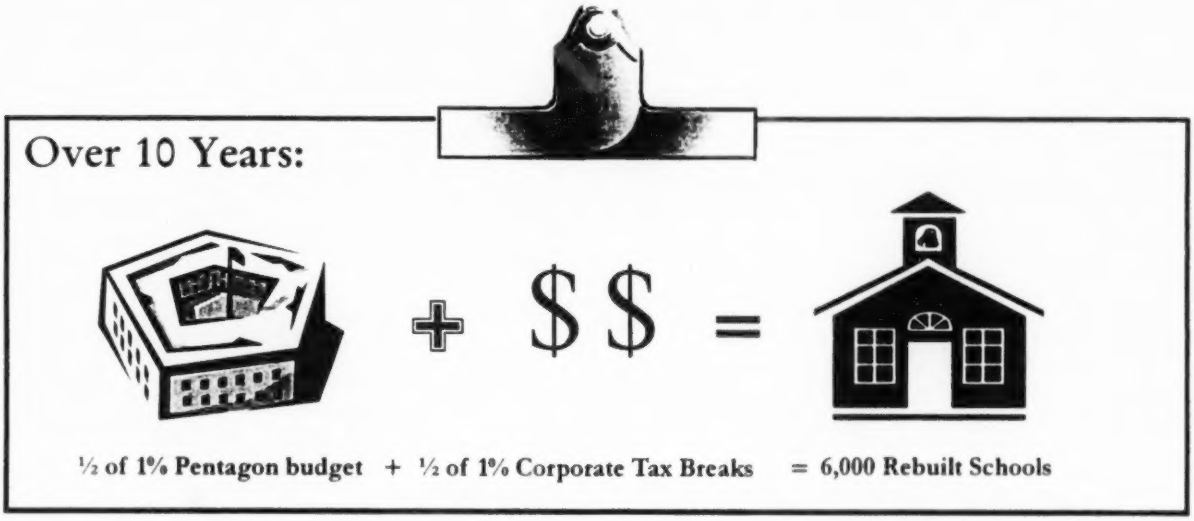
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 10.26% to 4.97%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Virginia would be eligible for $320.5 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 13,462 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Virginia taxpayers would be $5.29.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.



**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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# Washington

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Washington and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Washington's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

44% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

60% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**School age population is projected** to grow by 235,000 **children (28.9% increase)** between 1989 and 2009, resulting in **overcrowding** in many schools.

**According to a study by the National** Education Association:

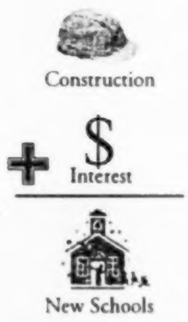
**It will cost $6.5 billion to modernize** existing public schools **in Washington, build schools to** meet rising enrollments, **equip schools with modern technology** and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Washington Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in Washington includes $12.8 million in construction, and $9.6 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Washington in 1997 was $478.32 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Washington

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Washington and its communities by $483.7 million or 69%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 8.92% to 5.86%.

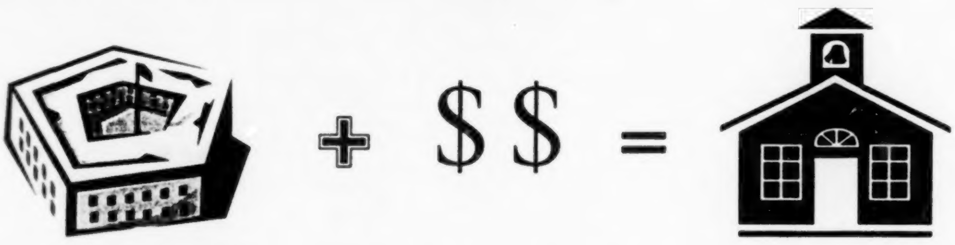
## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Washington would be eligible for $285.7 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 11,999 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Washington taxpayers would be $5.90.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.

**Over 10 Years:**



**½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools**

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# West Virginia

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In West Virginia and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### West Virginia's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

42% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

67% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

Nationwide, school age population is expected to grow by 7,600,000 children (an 18.7% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

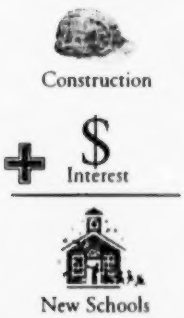
According to a study by the National Education Association: It will cost $1.3 billion to modernize existing public schools in West Virginia, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many West Virginia Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools



- The cost of a new high school in West Virginia includes $28.9 million in construction, and $21.7 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in West Virginia in 1997 was $130.45 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to West Virginia

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to West Virginia and its communities by $294.8 million or 75%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

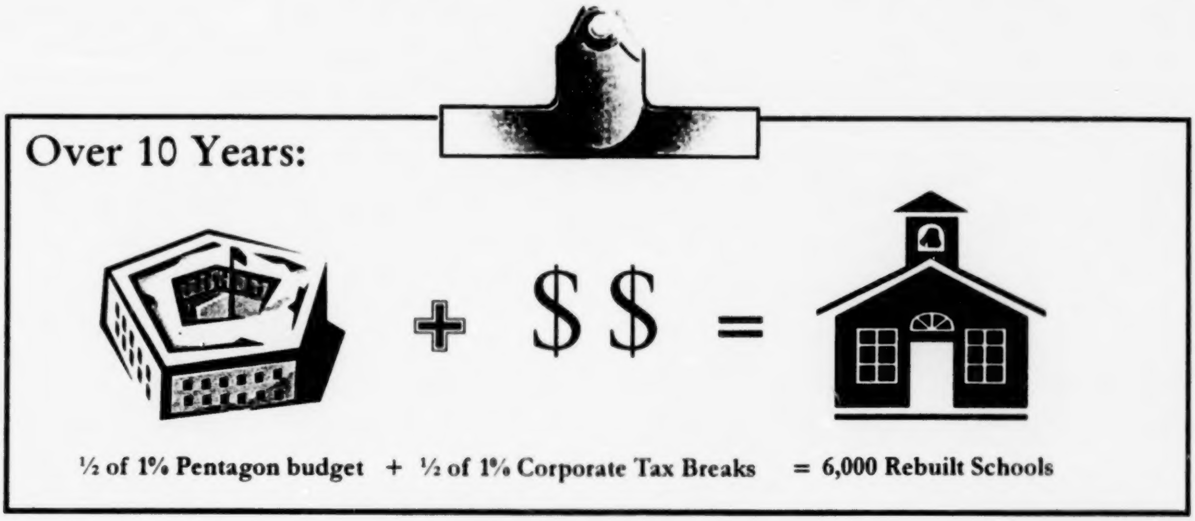
It has also cut back its share of education funding from 9.52% to 8.27%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. West Virginia would be eligible for $178.4 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 7,493 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to West Virginia taxpayers would be $1.85.

## Redefining National Security

It's time to redefine national security and change where our tax dollars go. We spend $300 billion a year on the Pentagon as the world's only superpower. We give corporations $150 billion a year in tax breaks. Just ½ of 1% of each would pay for this bi-partisan legislation. It's time to define national security in terms of how we care for the people of this nation rather than just by how many weapons we can stockpile.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½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

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Wisconsin

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

# RECESS IS OVER!

## It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Wisconsin and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Wisconsin's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government **Accounting Office:**

33% of our elementary, **secondary and high schools** need total replacement or **extensive repair.**

49% of our schools need **extensive repair of at least** one major building feature, **such as a roof or foundation.**

Although communities nationwide **have doubled what they** spent in 1990 on school **construction, it is not meeting the** need. If we continue to **modernize schools at this rate, it will** take 50 years just to fix up all the **schools that were deemed in** bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

**School age population is** projected to grow by 76,000 **children (a 9.7% increase)** between 1989 and 2009, **resulting in overcrowding** in many schools.

**According to a study by the** National Education Association:

**It will cost $5.7 billion to modernize** existing public schools **in Wisconsin, build schools** to meet rising enrollments, **equip schools with modern** technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Wisconsin Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Wisconsin includes $23.4 million in construction, and $17.5 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Wisconsin in 1997 was $718.48 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Wisconsin

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Wisconsin and its communities by $787.9 million or 86%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

It has also cut back its share of education funding from 7.13% to 4.3%.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Wisconsin would be eligible for $418.3 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 17,569 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Wisconsin taxpayers would be $4.71.

## Redefining National Security

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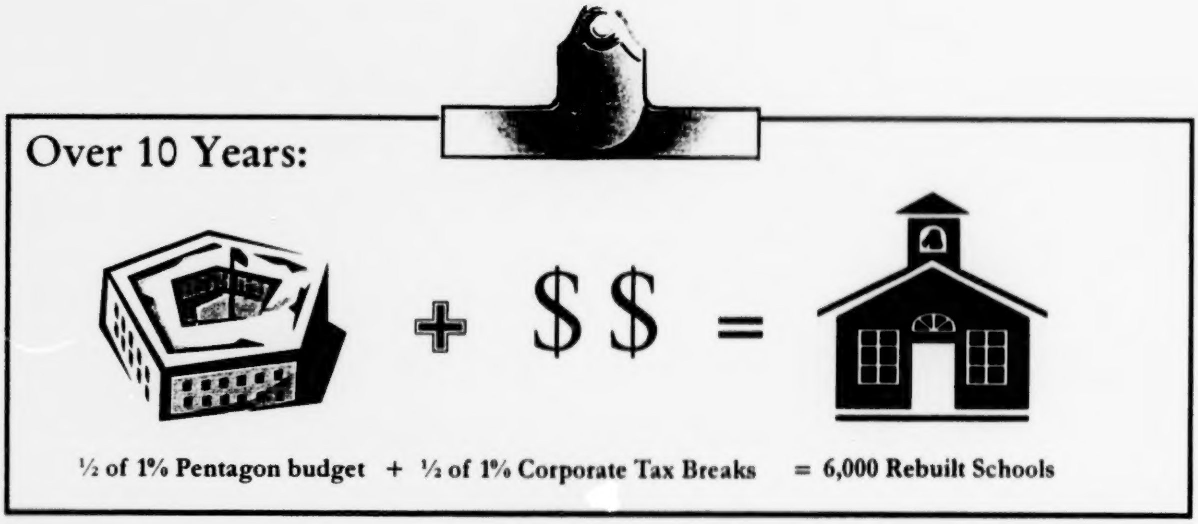
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# Grassroots Factbook

Volume 3 ◆ Series 2 ◆ April 2000

# Wyoming

A Publication of the National Priorities Project

## RECESS IS OVER!

### It's Time to Address America's Overcrowded and Deteriorating Schools

In Wyoming and across the country, the condition of our schools endangers students and teachers and impairs the learning process. Our states and communities do not have the resources to address this crisis on their own. The federal government must do its fair share to address this national threat.

### Wyoming's Public Schools are Dangerously Deteriorated

According to the Federal Government Accounting Office:

24% of our elementary, secondary and high schools need total replacement or extensive repair.

49% of our schools need extensive repair of at least one major building feature, such as a roof or foundation.

Although communities nationwide have doubled what they spent in 1990 on school construction, it is not meeting the need. If we continue to modernize schools at this rate, it will take 50 years just to fix up all the schools that were deemed in bad shape in 1996.

### School Construction Can't Keep Up with Population Growth

School age population is projected to grow by 3,000 children (3.4% increase) between 1989 and 2009, resulting in overcrowding in many schools.

According to a study by the National Education Association:

It will cost $634.4 million to modernize existing public schools in Wyoming, build schools to meet rising enrollments, equip schools with modern technology and fund professional development for teachers.

### The Impact on Students and Teachers

Recent studies show that students in deteriorated schools score 10-17 points lower than students in above standard schools.

Overcrowded schools make it more difficult for students to concentrate, and force teachers to spend much of their time struggling simply to maintain order, rather than teaching.

### Many Wyoming Communities Can't Afford to Build or Modernize their Schools

Construction
+
$
Interest
New Schools

- The cost of a new high school in Wyoming includes $11.8 million in construction, and $8.8 million in interest payments.
- In fact, the average cost for debt service in Wyoming in 1997 was $440.49 per pupil. Many schools and communities have poor credit ratings or have reached the limit they can spend on debt service.

Local property taxes help finance these schools. The poorer a community, the fewer resources it has to finance a school.

## The Federal Government has Cut Back in Aid to Wyoming

In the last 20 years, the federal government has cut community development, environmental, housing, job training and revenue sharing aid to Wyoming and its communities by $45.4 million or 64%.

Nationwide, in 1998 the federal government contributed only $400 million to school construction and modernization. States and localities paid over $17 billion for construction costs alone.

## Federal Legislation Could Make School Construction and Repair Cost More Affordable

Proposed federal school modernization legislation would pay the interest on bonds for schools in hard pressed communities, saving up to 50% of the cost of the school. All decisions about which schools are to be built would be left up to states and localities. Nationwide the Department of Education estimates we could rebuild 6,000 schools in 10 years. Wyoming would be eligible for $42.6 million in school construction bonds, which would generate 1,790 construction jobs. Another federal proposal would provide $1.3 billion a year nationwide in grants and loans for urgent school repairs in high poverty, high need districts. The annual cost for both programs to Wyoming taxpayers would be $3.40.

## Redefining National Security

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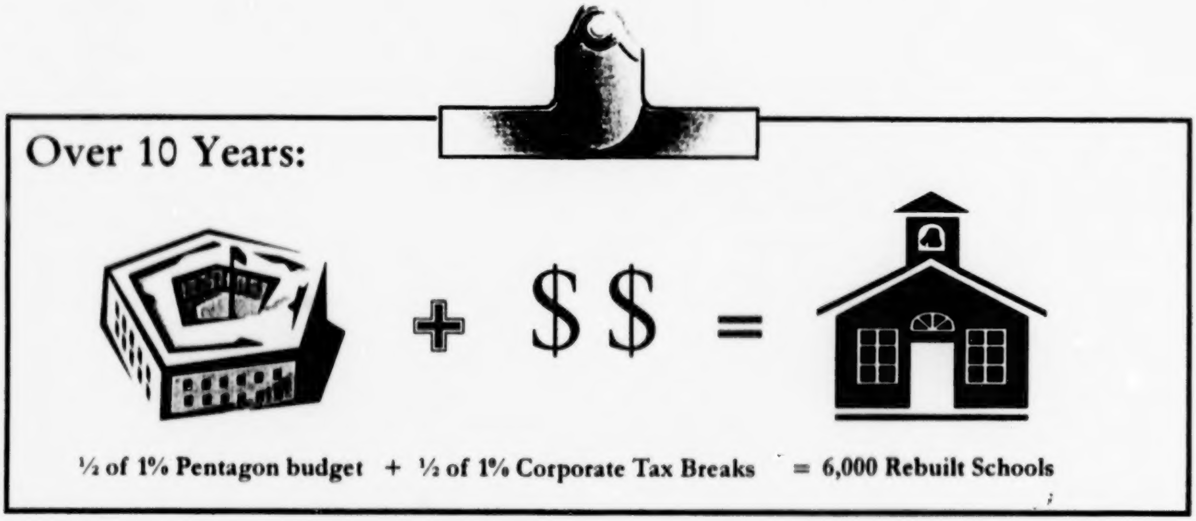
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½ of 1% Pentagon budget + ½ of 1% Corporate Tax Breaks = 6,000 Rebuilt Schools

For information about your school district, go to our web site at www.natprior.org
To order copies of the *Recess is Over!* national report contact NPP at (413)584-9556 or email info@natprior.org

**The National Priorities Project (NPP) offers citizens and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice. For more reports or other information go to our website *www.natprior.org* or contact us at *(413) 584-9556*.**

**17 New South St. ◆ Suite 302
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)584-9556 ◆ fax (413)586-9647
www.natprior.org ◆ info@natprior.org**

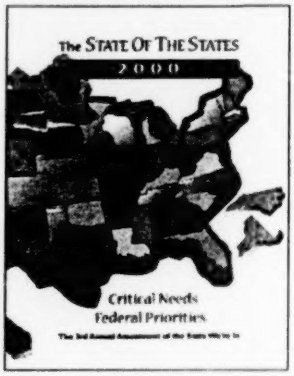
**Your Local Contact:**

The **NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT** produces reports for organizers, national, state and community groups, analysts, advocates and elected officials. NPP offers a variety of at-a-glance overviews in one to four page formats, localized press kits for each release, talking points for general use and a variety of other tools for organizers and the public. Please contact NPP for information.

The National Priorities Project has many releases currently in publication. Hundreds of state and city reports are available for free download through our web site, **www.natprior.org.** Hard copy of these and our national reports are also available for order directly through NPP. For more information please email NPP at: **info@natprior.org** or call us at **(413) 584-9556.**

Ordering information for recent publications and the new print, **National Security?** is below:

## The State of the States 2000: The Third Annual Assessment of the State We're In



This release includes a 28-page national report, 4-page reports for all 50 states and 2-page reports for more than 100 cities. It examines a 20-year federal spending trend in five areas of critical social need: economic security, education, the environment, health care and housing and juxtaposes the federal commitment to meet those needs with the spending on unnecessary cold war type weapons.

**National Report** • **$14.95 ea. S & H $2.50**

Quantity _____ Sub Total $_______

State ________ Quantity _____ **$3.00 ea.**

**$1.00 S & H** (when ordered alone)

City ________ Quantity _____ **$2.00 ea.**

**$1.00 S & H** (when ordered alone)

**SubTotal $_______**

**Total $_______**

## Choices That Matter: Federal Decisions and Your Hometown

CHOICES THAT MATTER
Federal Decisions and Your Hometown

This four-color, illustrated information package, NPP's 1999 State of the States Release, includes an 8-page national overview; a three-panel illustrated discretionary spending pullout, two inserts including a state-by-state data table, talking points and local reports for all 50 states and dozens of U.S. cities.

**National, State & City Reports,** (all-inclusive) • **$11.95 ea. S & H $2.50**

State ________ Quantity ______ **Total $________**

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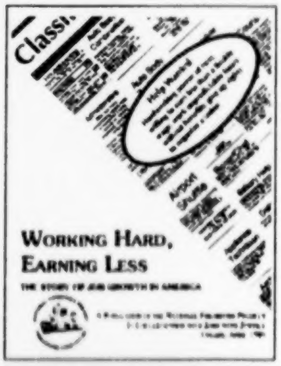
## Working Hard, Earning Less: The Story of Job Growth in America

This 24-page national report is published by NPP in collaboration with Jobs with Justice. It was the first known research publication to establish a livable wage for each of the 50 states. Among other points, this report reveals the twenty jobs with the most growth and shows that 74% of those jobs pay less than a livable wage. Local reports are available for all 50 states. (April 1999)



**National Report** • $7.95 ea. S & H $2.00

Quantity ______ **SubTotal $______**

**State Reports** • 4-page Talking Points • $3.00 ea. S & H $2.00

State ________ Quantity ______**SubTotal $______**

2-page Organizing Sheet • $1.00 ea. S & H $1.00 (when ordered alone)

State ________ Quantity ______**SubTotal $______**

**Total $__________**

## National Security?

Created by New York artist Amy Bartell, this print uses a combination of images, words and color to present a strong message. It questions our nations' current priorities favoring unnecessary defense spending, corporate welfare and tax breaks for the wealthy over the needs of the general public. The print features the poignant quote of former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan "The stakes are too high for government to be a spectator sport." This beautiful artwork is available in three formats: a 14 x 18 print, note cards and post cards.

**Prints:** Signed $29.00 • Unsigned $15.00

**Note Cards:** $22.00 • Pack of 12 cards w/ envelopes

**Post Cards:** $8.00 • 12 Postcards

**Gift Pack:** $25.00 • 12 Note Cards w/envelopes & 6 Post Cards

**Other titles available from NPP include:**

**Are You Winning or Losing?,**
32-page State of the States report on Federal Spending Priorities. (1998)

**America's Heart and Soul: Our Children at Risk,**
12-page report on Americas' Communities and Children. (1996)

**Voter Education Campaign:**

- **Jobs and the Economy,** 2-page reports commenting on the condition of America's work force.
- **America's Children,** 2-page report describing the condition of children in America.
- **Seniors,** 2-page report detailing the situation of America's seniors. (1996)

**Creating a Common Agenda,**
72-page report on national budget priorities. (1995)

Shipping Information & Other NPP Resources on Next Page

## Become a Local Organizing Partner

***The National Priorities Project specializes in producing easy-to-understand reports and fact sheets that explain the impact of federal spending policies on a national, state and city basis.*** We work continually with national organizations and local citizen groups to produce localized material, as part of our ***Grassroots Factbook*** series, that illustrates what federal spending decisions mean to families across America.

***You can help make these critical choices a larger part of the public debate*** by joining our Local Organizing Partners Program. This program is part of NPP's effort to build stronger relationships with grassroots organizations and coalitions across the nation. More than 80 community groups in 33 states currently participate as Partners. This type of collaboration brings national policy to the doorsteps of people across the nation in a way that is easy to understand and accessible for all.

Our ***Local Organizing Partners*** Program is designed to be accessible and affordable. If you are interested in becoming a Partner please contact Pamela Schwartz for more information about this and other exciting opportunities to work with NPP.

### At Your Service

**The staff of the National Priorities Project is available to offer expert testimony, conference or other presentations on a variety of topics, classroom lectures or technical assistance based on its research and publications.**

**For more information**
**please contact**
**Stacy Roth at (413) 584-9556.**

### ◆ Local Organizing Partner Information

Name of Organization

Staff Contact & Title

Address

City State Zip Email

Phone Web Site address (if applicable)

### ◆ Shipping Information

Name Title

Organization

Address

City State Zip Email

Phone Web Site address (if applicable)

**Quantity pricing available; please call for information.** NPP is committed to providing these important organizing tools to groups all over the country, regardless of the organization's ability to give financially. Please contact NPP for more information about how your group can benefit.

The *National Priorities Project* offers citizens and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice.

User-Friendly Presentations

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Localized Reports

National Overview

Telling America's story every day

Thoughtful Analysis

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